

City of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti announces a \$1 billion Proposal to renovate the Los Angeles River project.

The Army Corp of Engineers has signed on to a re-innovation project of the Los Angeles River, known as Alternative 20, a \$1 billion proposal to renovate and restore the historic river to its original greenbelt state. The Army Corps is the main custodian of the river and their support for the project will provide a major boost in efforts to secure the funding from Congress.

First a little history, during the early part of the 1900's the river was an untamed natural resource that sat dormant most of the year, but would run wild during periods of high rainfall. Annually many people would drown during these times of intense flooding and the property damage would be extensive. Along came the Army Corp who tamed the beast by turning the river into a long ribbon of concrete that would channel high levels of rain runoff into the Pacific Ocean.

The problem was solved but the aftermath was a civic eyesore and an embarrassment to local officials. How often have you been somewhat ashamed to show out-of-town visitors our medicore LA River? In recent times agencies such as Friends of the River, the LA City Council and the Mayor's office have been advocating for returning the river to it's original state while still maintaining a flood control safety plan.

The City had several plans that were presented to the Army Corp for their approval and participation, and they accepted the most ambitious of



Press conference occurred at the Mayor's mansion and was attended by Southern California media, construction officials, and LAPFCA executive director Don Vulich.

Don't Miss Our Next LAP&FCA Meeting!

Tuesday September 9, 2014



11:30am — 1:00pm

Beckham Grill

77 W. Walnut Street,
Pasadena, CA 91103

Associates Meeting 10:50am — 11:30am

Social: 11:30am — 12 Noon

Lunch served 12 Noon followed by Program

Continued on Page 6





Rob Stewart - Chapter President

In last month's newsletter, I stepped aside to allow our retiring executive director, Greg Quinn, say good-bye and let us learn more about his life before serving our association. For this edition I thought we could say hello and learn more about our new executive director, Don Vulich. During an extended conversation I found Don to be much more than just a painting contractor.

We have seen Don's picture in our newsletter for what seems like forever and he has been a part of the Board of Directors for over 20 years. But how many of you know that Don and his wife Cathy have *been* married for 43 years, with 4 children and 10 grandkids? His main passion away from his professional life is long distance running, having finished 29 marathons, a similar amount of half-marathons, and so many 10K and 5K races he doesn't really know how many. His family groans as they drive in unfamiliar parts of the country and hear him exclaim "Look at that trail over there, I bet that would be a great place to run!!"

Don ran track and cross country for Granada Hills High School, and played football for the College of Idaho where he earned his under-graduate degree in history and education in 1973, and then in 1977 he earned a master's de-

gree in student counseling. He taught high school and junior high school in Idaho before he and Cathy moved back to California.

Don first worked as a painter for his father, George, at Angeles Painting and Waterproofing in 1967 at the young age of 16. His first work assignment was painting the fire escape at the Coast Federal Savings Building at the corner of 9th and Hill Streets in downtown Los Angeles. Ask him sometime about the hazing he received from the foreman on his first day on the job. From that point on he painted summers, holidays and weekends throughout high school and junior college but his career path was set, first as a lawyer until a professor at Moorpark Junior College inspired him into Education.

So there he was, working at Angeles Painting and about to start the process of applying for teaching positions in California when his dad suffered a heart attack on February 14, 1978. That was how he became a contractor, and one of the first persons his father had him contact was Joe McManus, who was then the executive Director of the Los Angeles Chapter.

Being involved with PDCA just seemed like the thing for Don to do, and the first assignment he was asked to participate in was working with the State Contractors License Board in re-writing the contractor's license examination. Soon he sat on the Judiciary and other Committees, and after that was elected to the Board of Directors, went through the chairs and served as the chapter president in 1993-1994 and has been the Treasurer since 1996. More than 20 years he has been a trustee at the Labor Management Cooperation Committee, Health & Welfare and Apprenticeship Trusts. In addition to those commitments Don

has served as a management negotiator for all but one contract since 1992.

He also has been president of the Painting & Decorating Contractors of California, Western Conference of Councils of PDCA, been to many Finishing Contractors Association Annual Leadership Councils and also serves on several of their working committees.

I think enough is enough, by now you know that Don has been a tireless advocate for our chapter, and has built relationships at local, state and national levels of PDCA and at the Finishing Contractors Association. So when Greg decided to retire and he suggested Don as a potential successor it seemed to be a natural fit and it did not take the Board long to offer him the position. Going forward, Don has vowed to the Board, and you its members and friends, to continue the excellent examples of both Joe McManus and Greg Quinn. This association has been blessed to have only two directors for over four decades, and Don hopes his attempt to fill such a role are met with at least some degree of success.

But he also asks for your help in this as change is inevitable. What can our great association do differently to better lead the union segment of our industry? We want to help build a more dedicated workforce, the best apprenticeship program, and maintain a high level of benefits for our employees. We also need to do much more to gain market share and promote the value that LAP&FCA stands for. So with that in mind, feel free to give Don your thoughts and comments by calling the chapter office (323-258-8136) or e-mail him at lapfcavulich@gmail.com. Together we can accomplish much, so please be a part of it.

Rob Stewart

LAP&FCA Chapter News

Editorial Committee
 President: Robert Stewart
 Executive Director: Don Vulich
 Edited by DS Publishing

LAP&FCA Chapter News is printed bi-monthly by the Los Angeles Painting and Finishing Contractors Association Inc., 1106 Colorado Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90041 (323) 258-8136

While this newsletter is designed to provide accurate information and authoritative information on the subject covered, the Association is not engaged in rendering legal, accounting or other professional or technical services. Accordingly, the Association cannot warrant the accuracy of the information contained in the newsletter and disclaims any and all liability, which may result from publication of, or reliance on the information provided herein. If legal advice or other expert assistance or advice is required, the services of a competent professional person would be sought.

Website: LAPFCA.org

LAPFCA is a proud member of:



Calendar

2014

September 9 10:50am	Associates Committee	Beckham Grill Pasadena, CA
September 9 11:30am	LAP&FCA General Membership Meeting	Beckham Grille Pasadena, CA
December 7-10	Finishing Industry Forum	Mirage Las Vegas
December 13 Saturday evening	LAP&FCA Holiday Dinner Event	Embassy Suites Glendale, CA

2015

Jan/Feb TBD	PDCC California Council Annual Convention	Newport Beach, CA
March 4-7	PDCA EXPO & Convention	Charleston, South Carolina
May 6-9	FCA Leadership Conference	Chicago, IL



At the last Membership Meeting—



L to R: Wiley Zagajewski-LMCC Administrator, Jesus Fernandez-Director Apprenticeship Training, Emad Aziz-Compliance Officer

Rob Stewart, Pam Ackrich-BIA/Speaker, John Tenorio-J. Arthur & Associates

Visit: LAPFCA.org

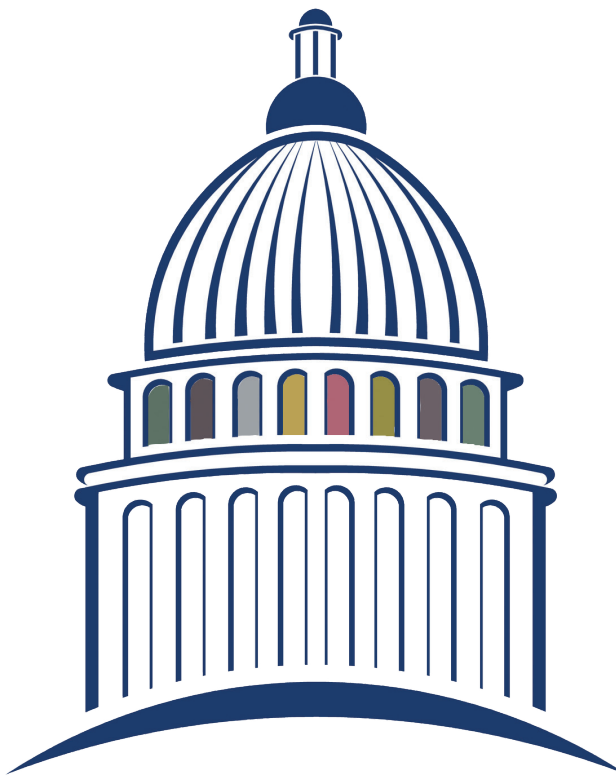


STATE

In recent years LAP & FCA has partnered with the American Subcontractors Association of California (ASAC), and attended the legislative conference they sponsor in Sacramento. The ASAC has called upon several leaders from various trades to form a forty member legislative bill vetting committee whose purpose will be to track bills of importance to sub-contractors. This bill vetting committee has identified thirty bills subdivided into eleven topic categories. Committee members then aligned themselves with a few of those sub-categories, in order to have each member concentrate on a fewer numbers of bills. The painting industry has three members on this committee; Sharon Hilke of the California Council of PDCA, John Kusper representing the Northern California FCA and Don Vulich of LAP & FCA. In this edition of our newsletter I will address a few of those bills and discuss other bills in subsequent issues.

AB 1581 (Buchanan)

This bill will increase an existing requirement of a pre-



qualification process in regards to school construction and renovation projects that are funded through the Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act of 1998. The prime contractor and selected sub-contractors would need to submit a pre-qualification application along with a financial statement prior to bidding on such projects. ASAC recommends sub-contractor support to eliminate under-qualified contractors bidding on school projects.

SB 502 (Block)

Existing law provides for a more stringent qualification process in bidding of projects that

exceed \$100,000 at University of California system. This bill would increase that threshold to \$640,000 and perhaps even allow for some projects to be exempt from this qualification process. ASAC and LAP & FCA opposes as it would open the door to un-qualified and in-experienced contractors bidding on UC construction projects.

SB 660 (Hancock), and SB 1007 (Wyland)

Each of these bills are related to the issue of Career Technical Education (CTE), and both ASAC and LAP & FCA generally support CTE bills to increase the quality of candidates to construction and related fields. SB 660 will help establish and maintain CTE standards throughout school districts. SB 1007 allows for increased funding to expand career tech classes in middle and high schools. The passage of both bills has been enhanced by the recent improvement of the California budget.

FEDERAL Pension Reform

As reported in the last issue

Continued Next Page



of our newsletter, one main issue that the Finishing Contractors Association (FCA) and LAP & FCA has been supporting in the halls of the United States Congress is multi-employer pension plan reform. While attending the Quality Construction Alliance conference in Washington this past spring the FCA continued to support the proposal “Solutions Not Bailouts”, developed over

support of labor unions speaks to the fact that preservation of benefits is the over-riding goal of “Solutions Not Bailouts”.

Those of you who pay attention to the daily operations of Congress are well aware of the current level of grid-lock in both the House and Senate. This has been reported to be the most un-productive congressional session in history. With this in

the Pension Protection Act that are set to sunset at the end of the year, and then perhaps we can find someone to sponsor the “Solutions Not Bailouts” proposal in the new congressional session of 2015.

Highway Bill

Of interest to some of our contractors in the industrial sector was the potential void in the expiring funds for the highway improvement bill.

In mid-July the House passed a \$10.8 billion funding extension to keep existing projects on line through May of 2015. Some of these funds were made available as a result of deferred pension contributions in some industries, which will increase tax revenue by \$6.4 billion. Other monies will be transferred from an existing fund dedicated to the repair of leaking underground fuel storage tanks. A more long term funding proposal may take place in 2015 in the form of increases of the gas and diesel tax, however don't count on that. At least for now, painting contractors working on bridges and other highway improvements will be able to continue existing contracts.



Left to right: Don Vulich-Exec Director LAPFCA, Greg Quinn-former Exec LAPFCA, May Stewart, Robert Stewart-President LAPFCA, Kathleen Unsell, Tom Unsell-Board member LAPFCA.

an 18 month period by a multi-industry, labor-management coalition. This proposal would allow multi-employer pension plans to use an increased “tool-box” to aid severely threatened plans in making adjustments to help preserve those plans. The

mind, it's sad to report that as of the August recess no member of Congress has been willing to put their name to legislation on this issue. The upcoming election has a lot to do with this. It is our hope that at the very least Congress extends provisions of



L.A. Mayor from Page 1 Continued

these plans, Alternative 20. With the weight of the US Army Corp of Engineers behind such a proposal, city officials have high hopes that this is the beginning of a win-win partnership for many, especially the citizens of Los Angeles.

and impact on the community. Land use is a big plus that will be gained, but also there is the capacity of water storage and other life improvements. We heard from officials and working groups beginning with the First Lady of Los Angeles, Amy Elaine Wakeland, Mayor Eric Garcetti, Col. Kimberley Colloton of the US Army Corp of Engi-

Los Angeles”.

I will be contacting the architectural firms involved to lend technical advice and to introduce them to professionals in our industry that can aid in moving this project into reality. The potential for job creation and public exposure is enormous, and it is our goal to be a part of this opportunity from the very

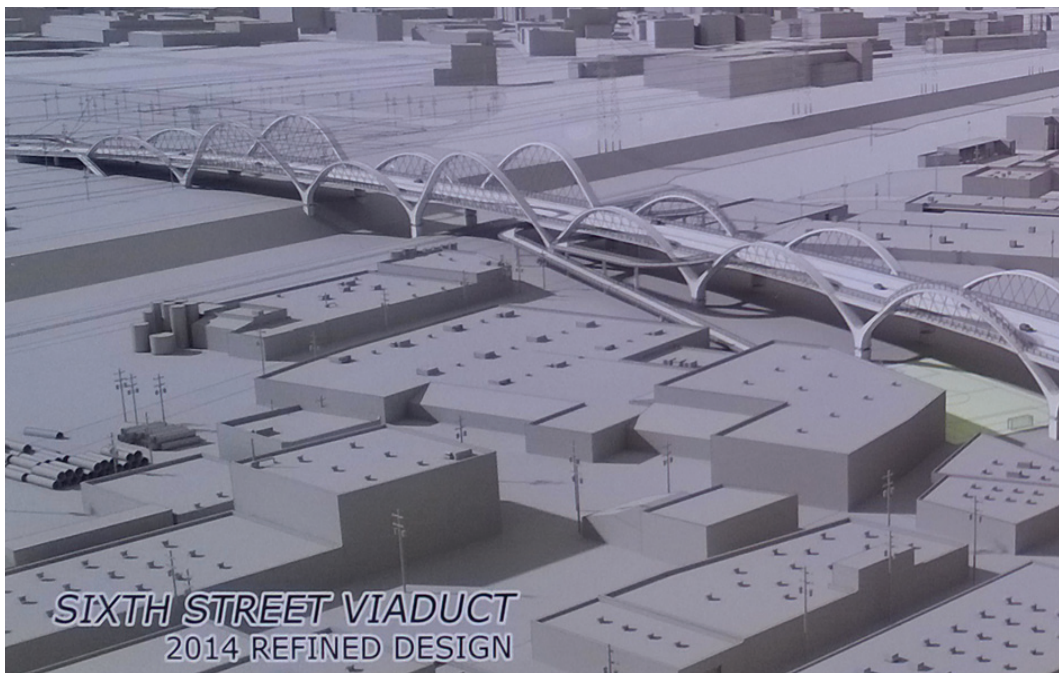


I can hear all the questions out there, starting with “What does this have to do with LAP&FCA?” Well, start to think beyond the removal of a lot of concrete and the greening of a riverbed. This plan is wide reaching and includes improvements beyond the flow of water. Think about 50 miles of bike path access. Think of pedestrian bridges spanning the river channel. Think of modernization and re-decorating of existing bridges. Think of anti-graffiti protection and urban blight removal. Think of new park spaces with new buildings and facilities. Think of commercial and industrial development that will be attracted to this improved civic attraction. Do I need to go on?

On July 21st I was privileged to be invited to The Getty House, the official residence of the mayor, where a gathering of concerned participants assembled to hear from leaders of the renovation project about its full scope

needs, Barbara Romero Public Works Commissioner, and Michael Maltzan, lead Architect for the project. Mayor Garcetti told the assembled guests: “What is good for the river is great for

beginning. Take a look at some of the artist renditions accompanying this article and join LAP&FCA in realizing this dream.



PaintCare's California Program

There's no doubt that painting contractors have noticed a line item on their paint supplier invoices called the "PaintCare Recovery Fee." Do you know what is behind this fee and the program operating the California Paint Stewardship Program?

The program started in October 2012 and is the result of years of planning by the government, paint manufacturers, and other stakeholders to find the best solution for managing unwanted, leftover paint. The program now has a network of 650 drop off sites in California and a new service for picking up large volumes of paint. All aspects of the program are funded by the fee so when it comes time to clean out paint from storage areas this process makes it much easier to recycle unwanted paint, whether it's a little at a time or all at once. And remember, there is no charge as the fees fund the entire program.

PaintCare is a nonprofit organization established by the American Coatings Association (ACA) the trade association of paint manufacturers responsible for designing and implementing programs in states that pass paint stewardship laws. Individual state programs are established one at a time. Oregon was the first state to pass a paint stewardship law. California was second, and six others have passed similar laws. The programs all have the same goals: (1) Make paint recycling more convenient, (2) transfer much of the responsibility of paint management from local government to the manufacturers of paint, (3) build the management costs for unwanted paint into the price, (4) avoid a tax on paint that would be paid to state agencies, and (5) allow manufacturers to create a system on their own with limited oversight by government.

About 650 million gallons of architectural paint are sold each year in the United States, and about 10 percent is leftover. Previously, that leftover paint has been handled primarily by government-run household hazardous waste programs (many with strained budgets and limited days of operation) or by hiring a hazardous waste management firm. PaintCare is designed

to relieve a considerable financial burden from local governments, and to make recycling more convenient for residents and businesses by setting up new sites across each participating state mostly at paint retailers. These programs are funded through a fee on architectural paint sales, which are \$0.75 per five-gallon cans). PaintCare sites accept all brands of paint, even if it was purchased before the program began. For a detailed list of products that are covered, visit www.paintcare.org.

Impact on Trade Painters

These laws impact painting contractors more than any other group. Although everyone who buys architectural paint now in California pays the fees, average homeowners purchase paint so infrequently they might not even notice fees if it is not listed on retailer invoices. (Listing the fee on invoices is optional, but most retailers choose to do so.) Contractors on the other hand quickly became aware of the fees. PaintCare works with retailers to provide professional painting contractors advance notice of the fees before the program begins in any state. Fees are paid by paint manufacturers to PaintCare for sales in these states, and then passed down to distributors, retailers, and eventually customers. It is expected that painters incorporate these fees into their job bids and pass them onto customers. In fact, many contractors have shared with PaintCare that they show the fees as a line on their quotes.

More Options for Paint Recycling

PaintCare's primary effort is to establish convenient paint drop-off locations throughout a state. Most new locations are paint retailers. Retailers are not required to be a drop-off site, but many volunteer to provide this service to their customers, their community and increase foot traffic. Many drop-off sites are retail sites where contractors buy their paint. In PaintCare states, the level of convenience for paint recycling has increased dramatically because there are so many drop-off sites and these sites have regular business hours.

Without PaintCare, contractors had limited options for recycling or disposing of unwanted paint, and options varied considerably by state or region. Without PaintCare, in many cases

contractors simply leave excess paint with their customers. In certain parts of California, areas with more developed household hazardous waste programs, these same programs usually allow smaller businesses to use their programs for a reasonable fee. In other areas, businesses must hire a hazardous waste transportation company to take away paint, a service that can cost hundreds of dollars for just a few gallons of paint. In other states, government agencies recommend that people dry out latex paint and dispose of it in the trash. This can result in stockpiles of old paint.

With PaintCare, there are two more options for trade painters that are free of charge: they can take their paint to a PaintCare retail drop-off site, or they



Left to right: Kevin Lynch, Brandon Nelson-Zarrah of PaintCare.

can arrange to have the paint picked up by one of PaintCare's transportation companies. The pick-up service has already been used by hundreds of businesses that accumulated a stockpile of at least 300 gallons and needed a single clean out. For these customers, PaintCare's transportation company arrives with empty cubic yard boxes and helps sort and pack the paint into the boxes, then takes them away on the same day. For businesses that generate large volumes of unwanted paint on an ongoing basis, PaintCare will provide empty boxes, train staff on how to sort and pack the boxes on their own, and the business calls for a pickup when the boxes are full.

What happens to the paint?

PaintCare contracts with hazardous waste transportation companies to pick up paint from all PaintCare drop-off sites. Back at their facilities, the paint is separated into oil-based and water-based products. Most latex

Continued Next Page



Construction on the Rise in Southern California

So, we hear that the economy is improving, and that statement is more than just idle talk, as most indicators are up. Investment markets grew at astounding rates in 2013, inflation remains in check, employment numbers have been consistently strong over the past several months and un-employment figures continue to fall.

Investment markets grew at astounding rates in 2013

Housing starts, sales and prices are also showing signs of regaining ground lost during the recession and even wage earners are seeing take home pay on the increase. But who cares, you ask? What does that have to do with us, the painting contractor?

The answer to those questions can be partially found in an article by Tim Logan in the Los Angeles Times on July 1, 2014. He reports that the construction industry in Southern California continues to show robust signs of a rebound, contributing to the economic stimulus perhaps more than any other industry. In a recent paper by UCLA's Anderson Forecast, construction has accounted for one-eighth of all California jobs created since the start of 2013.

Locally, Orange County has seen an increase of over 8500 construction jobs, or 11% increase in 2013, and Los Angeles County contributed 11,100 construction jobs in 2013, a 10% growth over the past year, as reported by the Associated General Contractors of America. The advancement in job creation is mostly seen in single owner housing, apartment buildings, and office space construction.

We still have quite a ways to go to reach the 160,300 construction jobs that AGC reported in 2007, as the current total stands at 125,100. But the overall news report is good, and painting contractors should be on the lookout for better times ahead. We can start to reshape our shrunken workforce and rebuild it with the most qualified of workers.

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I'm sure you've heard the cliché, "So much to do and not enough time to do it". That pretty much sums up my life for the past two months. I've needed to oversee some improvements at the chapter office, including new phones, mini blinds, flooring and some fresh paint. In addition to those physical improvements we are also in the process of updating our accounting system and the archiving of records. Last month saw the first General Membership, Associates and Directors meetings under my watch, and I've got to admit it was quite a challenge, but things turned out fairly well. I also have an increased appreciation for all that Greg Quinn did for us, as I now have taken his place on the Judicial, Apprenticeship (disciplinary, commercial and industrial), the Trust Delinquency, and the Health & Welfare Appeals Committees, all in addition to the regular Trust and LMCC meetings. And then there was my first time setting up our annual Dodger Day. Talk about a baptism by fire!! But that only begins to scratch the surface of what I have planned for the future of LAP & FCA. As executive director, I need to be on the leading edge of getting the word out about who we are and what we stand for as

PaintCare Continued

paint is sent to a paint recycling company and made into recycled-content paint, including some that is blended and repackaged by local government household hazardous waste programs and given out to the public or reused locally. Some latex paint is used for other beneficial uses such as retaining wall blocks, artificial gravel, and fuel products. A small amount of dry latex paint (about 4%) that cannot be recycled is usually land filled. Oil-

commercial and industrial coatings specialists. To borrow an ad campaign from a freight delivery company: "When it absolutely, positively has to be painted by Friday, we have what it takes!!" With that in mind I believe we need to have a presence in the realm of building owners, facility managers, real estate developers and public planners. I hope to get our logo out there and become well known through trade shows, letter writing and any other means possible.

I also expect our association to be ever changing and not become stagnant. You can see this philosophy in the changes we have made to this publication. We don't want to keep doing things simply because we've always done it that way. I know that along the way we will make some missteps in this endeavor, but know that if it isn't working we'll try something else. And if we find success, we'll work even harder at that.

I'd like to hear your ideas concerning how to go about achieving this goal. Help me to help our association and its members to grow our presence and market share. Together we can do great things, and the time to start is now.

Don Vulich

based paint is used a fuel for hazardous waste incinerators and cement kilns. Oil-based paint is never land filled. To learn more about PaintCare or to find a drop-off location in your area, please visit www.paintcare.org or call 855-PAINT09.

Author: Brandon Zarrahy-Nelson, Southern California Regional Coordinator, PaintCare, Inc. Brandon coordinates drop-off sites in the counties of San Luis Obispo, Kern, Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles and can be reached at (818) 900-8117 or bnelsonzarrahy@paint.org.

CUTTING TO THE QUICK

SAVE THE DATE

December 13, 2014

Holiday Party and installation of officers dinner. Come enjoy an evening with industry leaders, and the G3 Band.

DODGER DAY

on August 16th was a **huge success!** Stay tuned for photos and story in our next issue.