



Central Valley Chapter - California Land Surveyors Association  
[www.californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org](http://www.californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org)

# THE Central Valley Chapter PRISM

Volume 4, Issue 2

March 2014

## 2014 Chapter Officers

President: Kevin Genasci  
Vice President: Landon Blake  
Secretary: Rich Brown  
Treasurer: Tom Price  
Chapter Rep: Keith Spencer  
Chapter Rep: Bill Koch  
Alt. Chapter Rep: Landon Blake  
Alt. Chapter Rep: Kevin Genasci

## 2014 Chapter Committees

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Landon Blake (Chairman)  
Education Committee:  
Kevin Genasci (Chairman)  
Membership Committee:  
Keith Spencer (Chairman)  
Monument Preservation Committee:  
Mike Quartaroli (Chairman)  
Newsletter:  
Rich Brown (Editor)  
Professional Practices Committee:  
Josh Elson (Chairman)  
San Joaquin County Liaison Committee:  
Kevin Genasci (Chairman)  
Stanislaus County Liaison Committee:  
Rich Fultz (Chairman)  
Website:  
Keith Spencer (Web Master)

## 2014 Chapter Programs

Boy Scout Merit Badge:  
Scott DeLaMare (Coordinator)  
TrigStar:  
Bill Koch (Coordinator)  
Workshops:  
Chris Martin (Coordinator)

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Up  
Coming  
Meetings!

**Date:** March 26, 2014

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** Perko's @ 901 North Carpenter Road, Modesto

**Speaker:** Gary Hall, PE

**Topic:** Smart Vents

[www.smartvent.com](http://www.smartvent.com)

**Date:** April 23, 2014

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** Perko's @ 901 North Carpenter Road, Modesto

**Speaker:** Dane Ince, PLS, CFedS - San Francisco Surveying Company

**Topic:** Evidentiary Content of Maps

[www.sanfranciscosurveyingcompany.com/](http://www.sanfranciscosurveyingcompany.com/)

## Announcements

### April Test Dates are Approaching

FE/FS (EIT/LSIT) Exams

April 11, 2014 (Friday)

NCEES Principles of Surveying (PS)

April 11, 2014 (Friday)

CA Professional Land Surveying

April 14, 2014 (Monday)

### Final Filing Dates for the October Exams:

New PE/PLS Applications

May 1, 2014 (Thursday)

Refile PE/PLS Applications

July 7, 2014 (Monday)

### 2014 Chapter Membership Drive is Under Way

You should have received your 2014 membership bill from State CLSA. When you send in your dues, please don't forget to send in your Central Valley Chapter dues. You can also pay [online through the chapter website](#). Please support your local Chapter.

### 2014 National Surveyors Week

National Surveyors Week is March 16-22. The [National Surveyors Week Kit](#) is now available. The kit is a joint effort between NSPS and NCEES

### Chapter Waives 2014 Dues for Unemployed Members

At the October, 2012 meeting the Central Valley Chapter voted to waive chapter dues for any members (or new members) who have become victims of the current economic downturn and are unemployed. Please fill out the Membership Application, enter "Unemployed" on Line 7 for the Name of Firm, Agency or College, submit your application, and your 2014 chapter dues are waived.

[Click here for the 2014 Membership Application](#)

## Classes, Training, and Continuing Education

# Mark Your Calendars

### CAD Masters - AutoCAD Level I (3-Day Course)

March 31-2, 2014, Sacramento

April 14-16, 2014, Walnut Creek

April 28-30, 2014, Sacramento

May 12-14, 2014, Walnut Creek

May 19-21, 2014, Fremont

[Register here](#)

### CAD Masters - AutoCAD Level II (2-Day Course)

April 7-8, 2014, Sacramento

May 5-6, 2014, Walnut Creek

May 22, 2014, Sacramento

[Register here](#)

### CAD Masters - AutoCAD Level III

May 1, 2014, Sacramento

[Register here](#)

### CAD Masters - AutoCAD Civil 3D Intro (3-Day Course)

April 7-9, 2014, Walnut Creek

April 21-23, 2014, Sacramento

May 5-7, 2014, Walnut Creek

May 19-21, 2014, Sacramento

[Register here](#)

### CAD Masters - AutoCAD for Surveyors

April 4, 2014, Walnut Creek

May 12, 2014, Sacramento

[Register here](#)

### Central Valley CLSA - L.S./L.S.I.T. Review Course

Tuesday Evenings plus two Saturdays

Jan 7 - Mar 25, 2014, Modesto

[Register here](#)

### Land Use Navigators - Subdivision Map Act

March 21, 2014, Sunnyvale

April 11, 2014, Monterey

[Register here](#)

### CLSA-NALS Conference 2014

April 12-16, 2014, San Diego

[Register here](#)

### Lorman Education Services - Legal and Practical Issues of Easements in California

May 2, 2014, San Francisco

[Register here](#)

If you have information about a training or class, please submit to: [editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org](mailto:editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org)

## President's Message



Happy New Year! As I start my first year as chapter president I have been thinking back on how our local chapter has changed over the few years I have been around and what that means for us moving forward. There are three areas I see as vitally important to our success and relevance as a chapter. I feel like there are two key areas where our chapter has made substantial growth and I would like to see that trend continue. I also feel that there is one key area that could use some attention and I am asking for your help. The three key areas are:

- 1) Providing value for our membership: Have you been on our website lately? How about a chapter sponsored seminar or review course? These are great examples of how the chapter is providing value to you.
- 2) Local advocacy: This one can be a bit frustrating, but has borne fruit for our profession. We continue to make strides (sometimes more like baby steps) in the area of monument preservation. Just as importantly, we have done so in a way that has increased communication between the local surveying community and state and local agencies, and I am hopeful that that will be beneficial in the future.
- 3) Community involvement: This is an area where I feel we have some untapped opportunities, but we need to define what that means to us as a chapter. What does community involvement look like for the CVCLSA? Does it need to be a surveying related activity, or more general volunteerism? Is this important to you the chapter membership as well? Let me know what you think as we work into a safe and prosperous new year!

Kevin Genasci

Central Valley Chapter President

If you would like to comment on this topic or suggest another, please submit it to:

[editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org](mailto:editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org)

## National News

### Having a License Doesn't Make You an Expert

by Michael J. Pallamary, PS

There is a common misconception by many licensees that being authorized to practice land surveying makes one an instant expert. Regrettably, this is not true. Recognition as an expert is bestowed by those practitioners who have been subjected to the rigors of a hostile evaluation and the associated procedures that go along with earning the title of expert; it is not earned by self appellation or by the filling out of a form--it is the product of proven expertise demonstrated by competency and challenge. A license to practice is simply that, merely a license, one awarded after the applicant demonstrates that he/she has the minimum qualifications to practice land surveying.

Not everyone is capable of being an expert. The earliest known recognition of the use of an engineering expert arose in 1782, when the noted civil engineer John Smeaton testified as to why Wells Harbor in Norfolk, England was silting up. Smeaton's testimony, convincing and acknowledged, laid the foundation for the modern rules on expert evidence. Smeaton is recognized as the father of civil engineering, a practice he developed to distinguish it from military engineering.

In the United States, there are various rules that govern the recognition of an expert beginning with the admissibility of expert testimony. Federal Rule of Evidence 702, captioned Testimony by Expert Witnesses states:

A witness who is qualified as an expert by knowledge, skill, experience, training, or education may testify in the form of an opinion or otherwise if:

- (A) the expert's scientific, technical, or other specialized knowledge will help the trier of fact to understand the evidence or to determine a fact in issue;
- (B) the testimony is based on sufficient facts or data;

*Continued on page 9*



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## National Surveyors Week

### 2014 GPS on Bench Marks Campaign

NGS encourages anyone with survey-grade Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers to join the 2014 GPS on Bench Marks Campaign, a [National Surveyors Week](#) (March 16-22) event to raise awareness about professional surveying while improving the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS).

#### Why Participate?

The nation's height system, the North American Datum of 1988 (NAVD88), is founded on historic geodetic leveling surveys on thousands of bench marks that are often difficult and expensive to access. By adding GPS coordinates to these marks, the height system can be modeled in GPS survey systems for easier access. The latest hybrid geoid model, [GEOID12A](#), includes many "GPS on bench mark" observations, but would benefit from additional data collection in many areas

#### How to Participate:

1. Find local bench marks using the [NGS Data Explorer](#) or [DSWorld](#). Review the corresponding datasheet to make sure it is a 1st- or 2nd-order NAVD 88 bench mark.
2. Pick the best bench marks to help improve the nation's height system. If using DSWorld, view the GEOID12A accuracy map, and prioritize NAVD 88 bench marks in the areas that are yellow or orange on the map.
3. Visit your bench mark of interest and make sure it has a durable, stable setting, with good satellite visibility.
4. Record a description and take photos of the bench mark to aid future recovery. (See [optional observer field log](#) and [preview the upload form](#))
5. Collect your data following careful field procedures. You should:
  - a. Collect a 4+ hour GPS data file
  - b. Verify antenna type, height, and plumb
  - c. Use a fixed height tripod (recommended), and brace the legs with sandbags or chain
6. Share your data by [uploading to OPUS](#) using option 'share my solution.'

#### What happens next?

NGS will use your data to improve the next hybrid geoid model, increasing access to NAVD 88, and enabling conversions to the new vertical datum in 2022.

If you still have questions, contact a [geodetic advisor](#) or your local professional land surveyor's organization to see if there are any local coordination efforts planned.



*Mark Your Calendar!*  
**APRIL 12-16, 2014**  
**CLSA/NALS Conference**  
Town and Country  
Resort and Conference Center  
San Diego, CA

Registration info at:  
[www.californiasurveyors.org](http://www.californiasurveyors.org) or  
[www.nvlandsurveyors.org](http://www.nvlandsurveyors.org)

**CONTINUING EDUCATION   SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION   EXHIBITS**

T.: 707.578.6016   F.: 707.578.4406   E.: [conference@californiasurveyors.org](mailto:conference@californiasurveyors.org)

The poster features a scenic view of San Diego with palm trees in the foreground and a city skyline in the background. A large circular graphic with a surveying crosshair is overlaid on the right side. At the bottom, there are several small images showing conference activities, including a group photo, a golf course, and people in a meeting. Logos for the California Association of Professional Surveyors (CLSA) and the National Association of Land Surveyors (NALS) are also present.

# Technology and News

## The Political Surveyor: Defining “Geospatial” for Today’s Education and Tomorrow’s Workforce

By John Byrd

The traditional surveying and mapping profession, which today is more commonly known as “geospatial,” has an identity crisis. While the profession was long considered part of the broad field of engineering, the geospatial community today lacks a common and accepted definition and classification. This could adversely affect its future workforce and hundreds of millions of dollars for education programs.

### STEM Classification

Geography and geospatial technologies, which include surveying, are often missing from identified science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) education programs. The Obama administration’s proposal, “A Blueprint for Reform,” to revise the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and replace the Bush administration’s “No Child Left Behind,” which provides the foundation for federal support for K-12 education in the United States, does not include the words “geography” or “geospatial” or “surveying.”

The U.S. Department of Education publishes the “Classification of Instructional Programs.” It includes “surveying engineering” in group 14, engineering, but classifies geography and cartography (including geographic information science and cartography) as a social science in group 45. While Congress and many states are implementing programs to encourage young people to enter disciplines to obtain a STEM education, students studying geography, GIS, and cartography are ineligible for many grants, scholarships, and tax credits targeted toward STEM majors.

The Department of Homeland Security has a list of STEM programs on its website. The geospatial profession is listed and in many different ways: geographic information science and cartography, geospatial engineering, geospatial intelligence, laser and optical technology, surveying engineering, surveying, surveying technology, geometrical analysis. Only surveying is most clearly classified as part of the broad field of engineering.

### Workforce Growth

The U.S. Department of Labor identified geospatial technology as one of the top three emerging technologies for the 21st century workforce. According to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the projected employment demand for licensed professional surveyors over the current decade is 24,200 new jobs, representing a growth rate of 28%. The demand for geodetic surveyors and photogrammetrists through 2020 is projected to grow at the same rate as surveyors, creating another 30,000 new jobs. Growth rate projections for geospatial information scientists and geographic information systems technicians is 9%, well below the 14.3% average growth rate forecast by BLS for all occupations.

A study by the licensing board for surveyors in Texas found the average age of a licensed professional surveyor in the state is 55. This trend is similar throughout the United States.

### Available Degrees

There are just 65 post-secondary schools that offer surveying/geomatics degrees. Of these, only 16 are accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering Technology (ABET). These 16 schools provide four-year degree programs; there are an additional 14 ABET accredited schools that provide two-year degrees. According to Esri, there are 600 to 700 post-secondary schools in the United States teaching GIS. There is no national accreditation body for GIS. It is clear the supply of schools in surveying and GIS is not matching the projected demand.

### NGAC Working Group

To help meet expected geospatial education and employment needs, the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) established a Geospatial Workforce Development Subcommittee. It provided recommendations on strategies to facilitate the development, training, and retention of a highly skilled workforce. It also explored opportunities to integrate with President Obama’s STEM education national priority initiatives.

As Marvin E. Miller, PLS, RPP, SP, PPS, CP pointed out in this magazine (September 2012), “several key find-

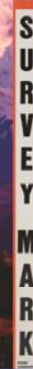
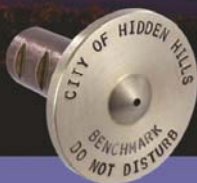
*Continued on page 6*



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### Political Surveyor..., *cont. from [page 5](#)*

ings by the NGAC subcommittee show just how undefined the geospatial profession is.” Among his observations:

- No single definition exists delineating which subject areas are included in STEM education programs.
- Many college/university programs offer GIS coursework and some offer certificate, undergraduate, and graduate programs. Most of these programs originate from within geo-graphy departments, although some reside in other disciplines such as information technology or engineering departments.
- Despite a robust educational environment, there has been little effort and collaboration towards professional development beyond the classroom. Unlike professional organizations that offer certifications (engineering, surveying), the geospatial community does little to formally link education with real-world experience.

The NGAC working group has not recognized some important realities. It does not discuss requirement for licensure in the NCEES model law and various state laws (which now define a broad array of geospatial activities as the practice of surveying), ABET accreditation, and the Department of Education classification of instructional programs.

#### What’s Being Done?

The question is, what is being done in STEM education to meet the future demand for surveyors and tomorrow’s professionals in other geospatial disciplines? What is being done to make certain there are adequate educational programs, particularly degree programs, to meet the 28% growth rate the BLS projects in new jobs for surveyors? What is being done to assure future home ownership, to layout and build future infrastructure, to help assure our valued property rights by assuring enough young people get educated and licensed as professional surveyors?

[Click for Complete Article](#)

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# It's In There

## Amendments to 2014 Subdivision Map Act and Professional Acts

**Amended (or Added) Sections of the 2014 Subdivision Map Act:** §§66411, 66412, 66424, 66427, 66427.1, 66427.4, 66427.5, 66427.6, 66428, 66428.1, 66442.5, 66449, 66452.10, 66452.17, 66452.24, 66474.5, 66475.2, 66477

**Amended (or Added) Sections of the 2014 Land Surveyors Act:** §§8776, 8776.1, 8776.2

**Amended (or Added) Sections of the 2014 Professional Engineers Act:** §§6760 (repealed), 6770, 6770.1, 6770.2, 6775, 6799

**Amended (or Added) Sections of the 2014 Geologist and Geophysicist Act:** §7839.2

**Amended (or Added) Sections of the 2014 Subdivision Map Act:** §§66428, 66442.5, 66449

**Amended (or Added) Sections of the 2014 Board Rules:** §§411, 412, 420.1, 442

**Amended (or Added) Sections of the 2014 Civil Code:** §§3003, 3005, 3008, 3009, 3021.1, 3035, 3060, 3061, 3064, 3065

**Amended (or Added) Sections of the 2014 Street and Highway Code:** §36622

**State Legislation:** **SB152 (Roth)** - Geologists and geophysicists must now use a written contract when providing services to consumers

**SB184** - Requiring date of signature for City Engineer or County Surveyor on Maps

**SB822** - Geologists and geophysicists now have the ability to retire their license

**SB543 (Steinberg)** - Fingerprinting required for all licensing applicants

Printed copies of 2014 Professional Acts Booklets available to purchase through [CLSA Website](#)

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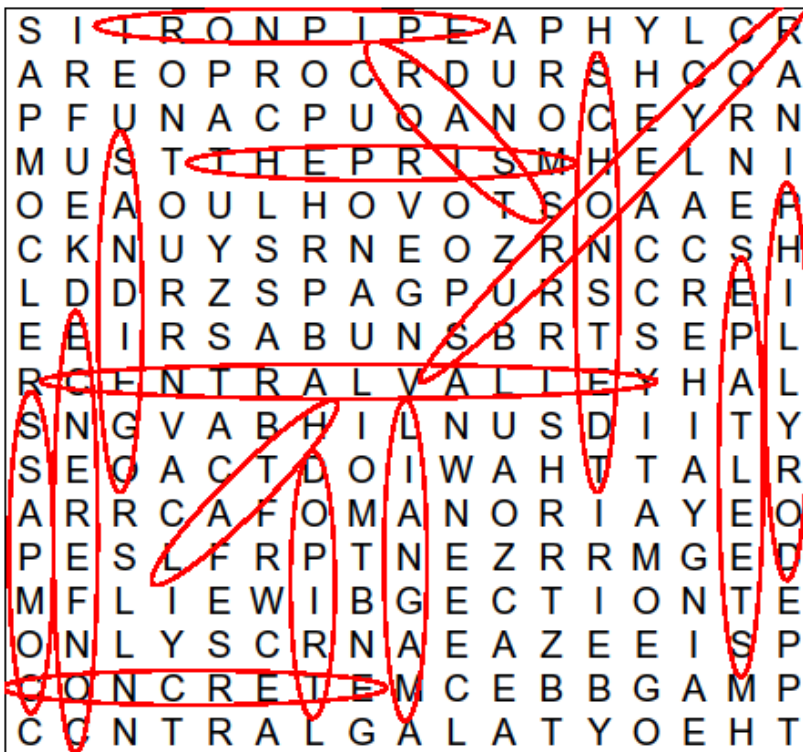
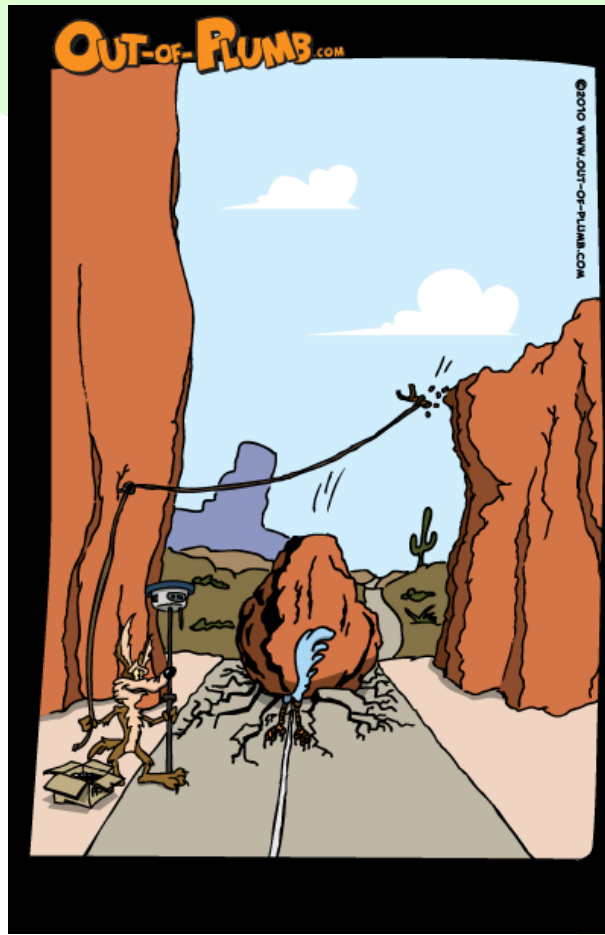
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## PUZZLE PAGE

What would have happened if Acme had made high-end GPS with centimeter accuracy.



## SOLUTION TO LAST EDITIONS PUZZLE

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SURVEYOR  
THE PRISM  
TRIPOD



## Having a License ..., *cont. from page 3*

(C) the testimony is the product of reliable principles and methods; and

(D) the expert has reliably applied the principles and methods to the facts of the case.

Under Section 720 of California's Evidence Code, "(a) A person is qualified to testify as an expert if he has special knowledge, skill, experience, training, or education sufficient to qualify him as an expert on the subject to which his testimony relates." Section 721 (a) states in part:

A witness testifying as an expert may be cross-examined to the same extent as any other witness and, in addition, may be fully cross-examined as to (1) his or her qualifications, (2) the subject to which his or her expert testimony relates, and (3) the matter upon which his or her opinion is based and the reasons for his or her opinion.

Rules such as these are intended to validate the qualifications of an expert by verifying he/she is qualified to offer opinions. Mere appointment without validation is insufficient. This vetting procedure is known as voir dire, from the French meaning "to speak the truth." It is the process by which potential experts are questioned about their backgrounds and qualifications before being allowed to offer their opinions as mere licensure is not enough.

Before an expert is permitted to offer an opinion, the moving party must establish the expert's competency and knowledge in the profession and not simply based upon experience, education, length of time of possessing a license, or the expert's credentials. The opposing attorney is allowed to voir dire the witness to bring out matters that might prevent his/her qualification as an expert. A witness is not deemed an expert until qualified as such by the court.

Within California, a corollary is found in Section 415 of the California Code of Regulations ("CCR"), Practice Within Area of Competence:

A professional engineer or land surveyor licensed under the Code shall practice and perform engineering or land surveying work only in the field or fields in which he/ she is by education and/or experience fully competent and proficient.

[Click for Complete Article](#)

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# THE SUBDIVISION MAP ACT

## A One-Day Seminar

**This seminar provides guidelines for effective use of the Subdivision Map Act.**

- New Legislative and Judicial developments in 2012
- When the Map Act applies (and when not)
- What kind of Map (tentative/final or parcel map) to use
- Exemptions and Exceptions under the Map Act
- Life of Tentative Map
- Conditions of Approval/Exactions/Dedications/Fees
- Creative mapping approaches
- And more...

*March 21st, 2014 - Sunnyvale*

*April 11th, 2014 - Montrey*

*April 24th, 2014 - Burbank*

## Picture of the Issue



### 2014 Chuck Kincaid Memorial Scholarship

This years Chuck Kincaid Memorial Scholarship is awarded to Marco Castaneda (shown with Bill Hofferber)

If you have a historic or interesting photo you would like to see in a future edition of The Prism, please submit to:  
[editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org](mailto:editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org)



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**CLSA EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

*Land Surveying Photo Gallery*



California Land Surveyors Association Education Foundation would like to thank Bryant Sturgess for generously donating his collection of historic images.

The proceeds from the photos sold on this website will be used to fund scholarships for land surveying students.



# Classifieds

## O'Dell Engineering is looking for

### SURVEY PROJECT MANAGER (Fresno Office)

Applicant will lead a team of surveyors and technicians with the primary objective of providing a superior work product for a satisfied client. Strong communication is a requirement. You will interact with staff, clients, contractors, and government agencies. Being concise and clear is imperative, both written and orally.

Job Responsibilities: Job responsibilities include preparation of maps, legal descriptions, exhibits, boundary resolution, research, and close interaction with Clients, field crews, and engineering staff.

Projects include very large scale municipal projects (High Speed Rail), large scale master planned land development projects, 3D laser scanning, high precision monitoring, on-call surveying for municipalities, small residential and commercial developments, and expert witness.

Desired Skills & Experience: The successful applicant must demonstrate a strong knowledge of land surveying principles and practice, possess strong organizational skills, as well as verbal and written communication skills. AutoCAD proficiency is required. Registration as a Professional Land Surveyor is required.

### ASSISTANT SURVEYOR (Fresno Office)

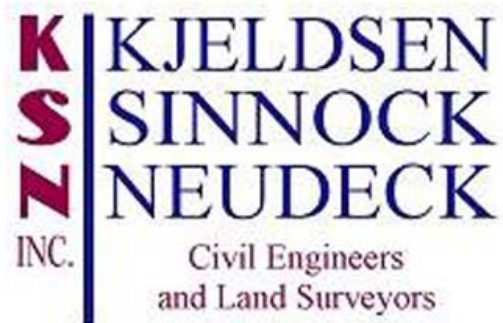
You will work directly under the supervision of a Licensed Surveyor. Duties include preparation of maps, legal descriptions, exhibits, research, and close interaction with field crews and engineering team members.

Projects include very large scale municipal projects (High Speed Rail), large scale master planned land development projects, various surveying tasks for municipalities, and residential and commercial developments.

Desired Skills & Experience: The successful applicant must have a desire to progress in the survey profession, demonstrate a basic understanding of land surveying principles and practice, possess strong organizational skills, as well as verbal and written communication skills. AutoCAD proficiency is required.

For more information go to [www.odellengineering.com/employment.html](http://www.odellengineering.com/employment.html)

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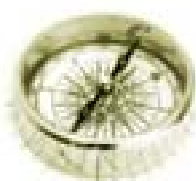
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**Keith W. Spencer, L.S. 6406, CFedS 1454**



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