



Central Valley Chapter - California Land Surveyors Association
www.californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org

Central Valley Chapter THE PRISM

**Up
Coming
Meetings!**

Date: December 6, 2018

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Louie's Place Saloon and Grill
 30048 Yosemite Blvd., Hwy 132, La Grange

Topic: Holiday Social

Date: January 23, 2019

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Perko's
 901 North Carpenter Road, Modesto

Speaker: Ric Moore, BPELSG

Topic: BPELSG

Announcements

GEO WEEK 2019 ANNOUNCED

International LiDAR Mapping Forum (ILMF), ASPRS Annual Conference, and MAPPS Winter Conference will come together to form "[Geo Week 2019](#)" taking place January 25-31 in Denver.

2019 CLSA CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED

The 2019 annual conference will be held at the Silver Legacy Resort in Reno, Nevada in 2019, as a joint conference with NALS.

2019 STATE OFFICERS

During the July 2018 Board of Directors meeting, Officers for 2019 were approved by unanimous ballot as follows:

President—Annette Hovorka
 President-Elect—Keith Spencer
 Secretary—Rob McMillan
 Treasurer—Warren Smith
 Immediate Past President—Ron Nelms

2019 CHAPTER OFFICERS

President—Rich Fultz
 Vice-President—Will Paul
 Secretary—Mike Dorsey
 Treasurer—Rich James

MAP ACT SEMINAR COMING TO CENTRAL VALLEY

Michael Durkee with Land Use Navigators will be coming back to the Central Valley for the 2019 Subdivision Map Act Seminar. It will be held in Modesto on April 24th, 2019. More information will be available in the next edition of The Prism, or go to landusenavigators.com to sign up.

2019 Chapter Officers

President: Rich Fultz
 Vice President: Will Paul
 Secretary: Mike Dorsey
 Treasurer: Rich James
 Chapter Director: Tristan Higgins
 Chapter Director: Rich James
 Alt. Chapter Dir: Will Paul
 Alt. Chapter Dir: Rich Fultz

2019 Chapter Committees

By-Laws Committee:
 Keith Spencer (Chairman)
 Education Committee:
 Keith Spencer (Chairman)
 Membership Committee:
 Rich Brown (Chairman)
 Monument Pres Committee:
 Mike Quartaroli (Chairman)
 Newsletter:
 Rich Brown (Editor)
 Professional Practices Committee:
 Mike Quartaroli (Chairman)
 Website:
 Keith Spencer (Web Master)

2019 Chapter Programs

Public Outreach Committee:
 Zachary Wong (Coordinator)
 Workshops:
 Rich Brown (Coordinator)

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Classes, Training, and Continuing Education

Mark Your Calendars

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

Dec 3-5, 2018, Sacramento
 Dec 17-19, 2018 Walnut Creek
 Jan 2-4, 2019, Sacramento
 Jan 14-16, 2018 Walnut Creek

[Register here](#)

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

Dec 10-11, 2018 Walnut Creek
 Jan 9-10, 2019, Sacramento
 Jan 22-23, 2019 Walnut Creek

[Register here](#)

CAD Masters - AutoCAD Level III (1-Day Course)

Dec 6, 2018, Sacramento

[Register here](#)

CAD Masters - Civil 3D Introduction (3-Day Course)

Dec 10-12, 2018, Walnut Creek
 Dec 10-12, 2018, Sacramento
 Jan 7-9, 2019, Walnut Creek
 Jan 22-24, 2019, Sacramento

[Register here](#)

CAD Masters - Civil 3D Advanced (2-Day Course)

Jan 24-25, 2019 Walnut Creek

[Register here](#)

CAD Masters - Civil 3D for Surveyors (2-Day Course)

Dec 17-18, 2018 Sacramento

[Register here](#)

Lorman Education Webinar

Subdivision Map Act in California
 On Demand

[Register here](#)

Lorman Education Webinar

Current Issues in Plat and Subdivision Law
 in California

On Demand

[Register here](#)

Lorman Education Webinar

Factors of Drafting Effective Easements
 Jan 16, 2019

[Register here](#)

Fresno State 2019 Geomatics Conference

Fresno Convention Center, Fresno, CA
 January 25-26, 2019

[Register here](#)

CLSA/NALS 2019 Annual Conference

Silver Legacy Resort, Reno, NV

March 23-26, 2019 **Information Coming Soon**

Land Use Navigators - 2019 Subdivision Map Act

Apr 24, 2019 Modesto

[Register here](#)

Geospatial Summit 2019

Silver Spring, MD

May 6-7, 2019

Information Coming Soon

If you have information about a training or class, please submit to: editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org

Agency Holiday Closures

This list is to be a guide **ONLY**. Please contact the specific Agency for questions or conformation.

Stanislaus County

Nov 22-23
 Dec 24-25
 Jan 1

City of Turlock

Nov 22-23
 Dec 24-25
 Jan 1

City of Stockton

Nov 22-23
 Dec 25
 Jan 1

M.I.D. (Modesto)

Nov 22-23
 Dec 25
 Jan 1

City of Ceres

Nov 22-23
 Dec 24-25
 Dec 31
 Jan 1

San Joaquin County

Nov 22-23
 Dec 25
 Jan 1

Merced County

Nov 22-23
 Dec 25
 Jan 1

O.I.D.

Nov 21-23
 Dec 24-28
 Jan 1

City of Modesto

Nov 22-23
 Dec 25
 Jan 1

City of Manteca

Nov 22-23
 Dec 24-25
 Jan 1

City of Merced

Nov 22-23
 Dec 25
 Jan 1

T.I.D.

Nov 22-23
 Dec 24-25
 Dec 31
 Jan 1

If you would like to comment on this topic or suggest another, please submit it to: editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org

Monument Obituaries

By Mike Quartaroli, PLS



CLSA **CENTRAL VALLEY CHAPTER** Survey Monument Conservation Committee



Austin Road, San Joaquin County **"SJCO BM O-36.2"**

Destroyed without any Monument Preservation along the 3-mile PG&E project



Help the Monument Preservation Committee Educate Utility Companies
Be Vigilant! Be Observant!

Notify the Committee of any utility projects under construction
Ask about the "Adopt A Monument" program. Make a lasting contribution to the Land Surveying Profession.

Paid for by the Survey Monument Conservation Committee

National News

New Datums: Replacing NAVD 88 and NAD 83

By National Geodetic Survey

New Datums: Replacing NAVD 88 and NAD 83

To improve the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS), NGS will replace the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) and the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88) with a new geometric reference frame and geopotential datum in 2022.

The new reference frames will rely primarily on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS), such as the Global Positioning System (GPS), as well as on a gravimetric geoid model resulting from our Gravity for the Redefinition of the American Vertical Datum (GRAV-D) Project.

These new reference frames will be easier to access and to maintain than NAD 83 and NAVD 88, which rely on physical survey marks that deteriorate over time.

Background: Why is NGS replacing NAD 83 and NAVD 88?

NAD 83 and NAVD 88, although still the official horizontal and vertical datums of the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS), have been identified as having shortcomings that are best addressed through defining new horizontal and vertical datums. Specifically:

NAD 83 is non-geocentric by about 2.2 meters.

NAVD 88 is both biased (by about one-half meter) and tilted (about 1 meter coast to coast) relative to the best global geoid models available today.

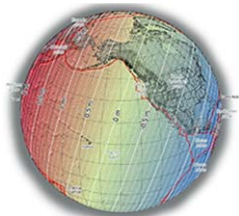
These issues derive from the fact that both datums were defined primarily using terrestrial surveying techniques at passive geodetic survey marks. This network of survey marks deteriorates over time (both through unchecked physical movement and simple removal), and resources are not available to maintain them.

What to expect: Your coordinates will change

The magnitude of change will vary based on the datum you are using and your geographic location. View the maps below to see the approximate horizontal and height changes when the new reference frames are adopted.

You can use **xGEOID** models to approximate vertical change in your area.

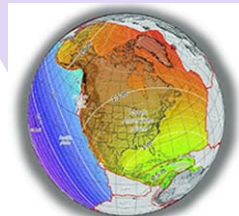
Approximate Ellipsoid Height Change



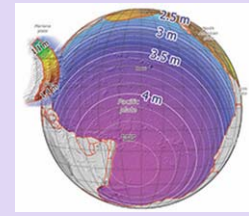
Approximate Orthometric Height Change



Approximate Horizontal Change North American Plate



Approximate Horizontal Change Pacific Plate



Get Prepared

1. Transform Data

Tools will be available to transform your data to the new datums from NAVD 88 and the newest realization of NAD 83, using [NGS Coordinate Conversion and Transformation Tool \(NCAT\)](#).

NOTE: depending on your accuracy requirements consider saving original observation files and/or plan for re-observations.

2. Record Metadata

Knowing the datums and epochs for your geospatial files will simplify your datum transformations, so require complete metadata in all mapping contracts.

3. Participate in GPS on Bench Marks

Obtain precise ellipsoid heights on NAVD 88 bench marks to improve the transformation tool for the new datums.

4. Review State Plane Coordinate System of 2022 (SPCS2022)

Once finalized, a procedure document will include contact information and instructions for requesting and proposing zones, as part of developing SPCS2022.

5. Prepare to change legislation, as needed.

Currently, 48 states have legislation defining their state-based coordinate system, specifically referring to NAD 83 by name. NGS, the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS), and the American Association of Geodetic Surveying (AAGS) created template legislation to aid states in transitioning their legislation to new wording. **Contact NSPS**, your state affiliate or your local chapter for more information
State Plane Coordinate System (SPCS83) Legislated Units



Continued on page 6

SANDIS IS HIRING!

SANDIS is hiring numerous employees throughout the Central Valley to staff our work with California High Speed Rail.

[CLICK THIS AD TO SEE OPEN JOBS!](#)

ABOUT SANDIS

SANDIS has been in the engineering and surveying industry for over 50 years and has over 165 employees. We actively recruit well-rounded individuals whom are technically skilled, team oriented, honest, optimistic, energetic and communicative. Through structured internal and external training programs, we continuously invest in our people to ensure that skill proficiency remains at the forefront of technological and industry advancements.

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SANDIS employees enjoy numerous benefits including medical, vision, dental, 401k matching, health savings accounts (HSA), transportation benefits, and educational reimbursement. We do more than the benefits you see on paper though, this year employees were treated to motorcycle rides, a family trip to Great America, and multiple ski trips.



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CAD Technician | 3+ Years of experience | Manteca, CA

CAD Technician | 3+ Years of experience | Selma, CA

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New Datums, *cont. from [page 4](#)*

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about New Datums...

Who will have to use the new datums?

All federal civilian agencies with geographic data will be required to use the new reference frames when they are adopted as part of the NSRS. These agencies must use geodetic control to accurately register spatial data, and the NSRS is the fundamental geodetic control for the United States. The final step in adoption will be approval of the new reference frames by the Federal Geodetic Control Subcommittee (FGCS).

For those not part of federal agencies, using geodetic control to accurately register spatial data should conform with applicable state or local laws or contract terms. In many cases, there are advantages to use the NSRS and current reference frames.

How will accessing the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS) change with the release of the new datums?

The NSRS will be accessed using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology that references Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) and relies on a time-dependent gravimetric geoid model. This method of accessing the NSRS is a paradigm shift from accessing NAD 83 and NAVD 88 through the use of geodetic survey marks.

Will new State Plane Coordinate projections be defined?

Through a concerted outreach effort by NGS, each state will be given the opportunity to update their State Plane Coordinate system, with the roll-out of the four new terrestrial reference frames. Any requested changes to the system must be in accordance with the [NGS Policy on Changes to State Plane Coordinate Systems](#).

Should a state decide not to provide any feedback, NGS will likely define State Plane Coordinates (SPC) for that state through the same projections and zones associated with NAD 83, but with offsets in northings and/or eastings to distinguish these new coordinates from the SPCs of NAD 83 and NAD 27. As SPCs are a user-driven commodity, NGS is not expending any resources at this time investigating the improvement of this system.

Has NGS worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to determine the new vertical datum's impact to Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs)?

Yes, NGS has worked with the FEMA to determine the new vertical datum's impact to DFIRMs, and this coordination will increase closer to the the roll-out of the new datums. Specifically, NGS completed a pilot project with FEMA in 2010 to determine the impact of the new geopotential datum on floodplain mapping in North Carolina. [You can read the report from this pilot project online.](#)

NGS will also coordinate with federal partners (e.g. FEMA) whose products or services (e.g. DFIRMs) may be impacted by the new datums through [Federal Geodetic Control Subcommittee](#) (FGCS) and its working groups.

Has NGS worked with United States Geological Survey (USGS) to determine what impact the new datums will have on 3D Elevation Program (3DEP)?

NGS regularly communicates with the USGS regarding its 3DEP, and this coordination will increase closer to the the roll-out of the new datums. NGS will also coordinate with federal partners (e.g. USGS) whose products or services (e.g. 3DEP) may be impacted by the new datums through [Federal Geodetic Control Subcommittee](#) (FGCS) and its working groups.

What will be the role of OPUS Shared Solutions in the 2022 terrestrial reference frames?

The four new reference frames will be defined through plate rotation models built from CORS data (with the possible exception of the MATRF2022, which has a shortage of geographically dispersed CORS data). The new geopotential datum will be built around the ITRF, and rely exclusively on digital elevation data and gravity (terrestrial, airborne and satellite). No surveys on passive control (with the exception of terrestrial gravity) will actually be used to build the new reference frames or geopotential datum, including publicly shared OPUS solutions.

The new datums will be accessed primarily through CORS not through passive marks. However, NGS has repeatedly committed ourselves to supporting passive marks as "tied to" the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS).

As such, once the reference frames and geopotential datum are built, then NGS will populate a new NSRS database, computing time-dependent coordinates within the four frames and the geopotential datum on passive control. The process of computing those coordinates will begin with a re-processing of all GPS files in the NGS archives. That includes files turned in with traditional bluebooked projects as well as files turned in through the OPUS Shared Solutions portal. Additional re-processing of leveling and/or traverse data will be evaluated for many factors, including (a) the availability of necessary metadata and (b) the likelihood that said data will be capable of yielding an accurate time-dependent coordinate, especially in pre-GPS years.

The time-dependent coordinates on passive control will be accessible through a newly designed datasheet.

My projected height change seems to return me to NGVD 29 heights. Is this a coincidence?

This is coincidental. It so happens that, in some areas of the country the actual orthometric height in a region happens to be numerically closer to NGVD 29 than NAVD 88. NGVD 29 itself has biases and tilts which make it as inappropriate of an estimate of true orthometric heights as NAVD 88.

[Click here for complete article](#)

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Education News

Should a College Degree be a Required Element of Professionalism?

By Donald Johnson, PS

I recently attended a continuing education seminar where amendments to our state land surveyors act were being discussed. Running through the various texts, we came to the section of our act that outlines requirements for licensure as a Surveyor Intern. The most notable change to this section concerned educational requirements to sit for the fundamentals of surveying examination. With the intent to increase licensure, our act was amended to allow candidates with a baccalaureate degree in any subject including 24 hours of surveying courses to qualify for the exam. Prior to the change, a candidate needed a baccalaureate in land surveying or related science plus the requisite 24 hours of surveying.

Personally, I support the change and found it relatively insignificant. However, a passionate discussion began when the audience was asked to voice its opinion regarding the amendment and the value of requiring a four-year degree at all. While we generally acknowledged the need to increase our numbers, opinions were mixed on the degree requirement. Some proposed a technical associates degree. Others were hell bent on the four-year requirement, rationalizing ... “if we want to be on par with engineers and architects we need to keep it”.

I interjected that I would like to see a non-degreed path to licensure. Something requiring a combination of college course work and on the job experience. One of the guest speakers responded to my comment, retorting ... “in some States you cannot be considered a professional without a college degree”. As a non-degreed surveyor, I fully understand my bias on the topic, nevertheless, this comment got under my skin. Whether it is true or not is not the issue—rather why does the opinion exist at all? After all, I considered myself a professional.

I founded my own survey firm shortly after obtaining my license, problem solved with attorneys, engineers, planners and many other design and legal professionals over my thirty-three-year career. I can’t recall a single time that my professionalism has been called into question. Quite the opposite, I remember receiving compliments for my professional conduct. The thought that my life’s work in the survey profession is somehow relegated to a lower status, simply for not possessing a college degree, is disturbing.

That’s not to say that I believe that obtaining a college degree is a bad thing or that schools are not preparing students adequately. To the contrary, obtaining a college degree should be rewarded as being the most desirable and quickest way to becoming licensed. However, it should be viewed from the proper perspective and assigned appropriate weight. After all, what unique knowledge is bestowed on a college student between eighteen and twenty-two years of age that so separates them from their non-student counterparts, that are actively working in the profession?

Is it the history of the U.S. Rectangular Survey System? If so, any authoritative book on land surveying will provide insight on that subject. Maybe some form of special math or science? I’ve taken college level math and science classes, but I can safely say that my high school courses would have sufficed to solve any survey computation I’ve encountered so far. Attorneys at law have some of the highest educational requirements of any profession; following this logic, lawyers as a group should be a paradigm of professionalism. These are our current and future judges, many ascending to high political positions, making and shaping the laws that govern us. But you need to look no farther than their billboard advertisements to find evidence to the contrary.

Professionalism manifests itself based on our beliefs and personal ethics that were developed over our lifetimes. In fact, our parents probably had a greater influence on our professional capacity than any college course or job training experience ever will. Professionalism can’t be legislated into existence—which is the primary reason I rallied against mandatory continuing education before it was enacted in Illinois. It became clear to me early in my career, that if an individual did not possess the drive, commitment and most importantly the

passion to continue learning on their own, no amount of mandated study would substitute. You either conduct yourself in a professional manner or you don’t. There is no middle ground.

For reasons that escape me, we tend to compartmentalize things to the point of being meaningless—for instance, the topic of ethics. In my state of Illinois, surveyors are required to have taken two professional development hours in ethics every renewal period. This is not entirely unreasonable, but what is it really teaching us? Ethics class for me typically consists of three to four real-life examples of abhorrently reckless surveyors attempting to cover up a mistake they made, resulting in damage to one or more parties. This is usually followed up with a short question and answer session. Where is the mistake? Was it ethical for said surveyor to withhold this information from his client? Blah, Blah, Blah. Of course not, it’s a cover-up! And why was the

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Continued on Page 9

State News

California Wildfires and Their Effects on Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists

By Brooke C. Phayer, Editor (BPELSG Bulletin)

Editor's note: First in a series related to civil engineering processes. We will further explore this impact on land surveying and geology professionals in future editions of the Bulletin.

The Problem

After a devastating wildfire, the flooding and erosion that commonly follow present increasing hazards to California's population. After-fire processes on hillslopes include erosion by extensive shallow overland flow, formation of rills (defined as local erosion by running water that is shallow enough to be considered an ephemeral landscape feature), gullies (defined as erosion that forms features with vertical or sloped banks deep enough to persist over seasonal or annual timescales), generation of sediment-laden flows, and possibly debris flows. Subsequent rain events may cause ongoing hillslope erosion and local deposition and erosion in gullies.

Intense rainfall on recently burned landscapes often results in increased flood magnitude, widespread erosion, initiation of debris flows, and sedimentation in stream valleys in volumes greatly exceeding what is expected from rainfall on unburned landscapes. After a high-severity burn, the primary mode of sediment transport on steep, burned slopes prior to the first rainfall is wind; however, the most dramatic post-wildfire sediment transport results from intense rain. Rain-splash and runoff erosion is exacerbated by a combination of the loss of plants and organic ground cover that previously intercepted precipitation and dampened raindrop energy, the soil's decrease in shear strength from burned roots, and changes in soil hydrologic properties—particularly decreased infiltration rates (soil water repellency) caused by high temperatures and hyperdry soils.

Affecting Our Licensees

Improving our understanding of how landscapes respond to wildfires and subsequent storms is increasingly important as various stakeholders continue to cope with increased fire activity, drought, and human encroachment into wildlands.

Sediment movement from wildfire events is largely consistent with predictions from U.S. Forest Service models derived from debris-flow studies. These results highlight our increasing ability to predict landscape change following wildfires. However, the range of landscape conditions and weather events seen in these previous studies is not comprehensive enough to predict the full impact that these events could have on the surveying, civil engineering, and geology practices, and points to the potential benefits of future study. To this end, we spoke with several county engineering managers from around California for their input on the wildfires' effect on their work. The first of these interviews is in the "Getting to Know our Licensees" article on page 4 of [Fall 2018 BPELSG Bulletin](#).

Acknowledgement: We thank the U.S. Forest Service for access to its research reports and information, and permission to reprint its findings.

[Click Here For Original Article](#)

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Should a College Degree, *cont.* from [page 7](#)

reckless surveyor attempting to cover up their mistake? Because he doesn't want to pay for the damages and admit the embarrassing mistake. A perfect example of the ageless dilemma of choosing between right and wrong.

Certainly, there exists cases where the difference between right and wrong is nebulous, but in the end, it still comes down to a binary choice between right and wrong. Simply put, you can't be a professional without first being ethical. The two are mutually inclusive. You can't develop ethics over the span of two hours biannually—nor can it be obtained in the four to five years spent earning a baccalaureate degree.

Mentioned earlier, but worth repeating, professionalism is based on our beliefs and personal ethics which combine to create our principals. Principles guide our moral compass and help us navigate the right and wrong in the decision process. In my opinion, this the only required element of professionalism. As practitioners of the profession, we are the sole arbiters of professional conduct and bear the responsibility for policing our peers. We do this through our state board of registration. Should we decide to define professionalism in terms of college, I believe that we will have effectively ceded our authority to the universities.

[Click here for original Article](#)

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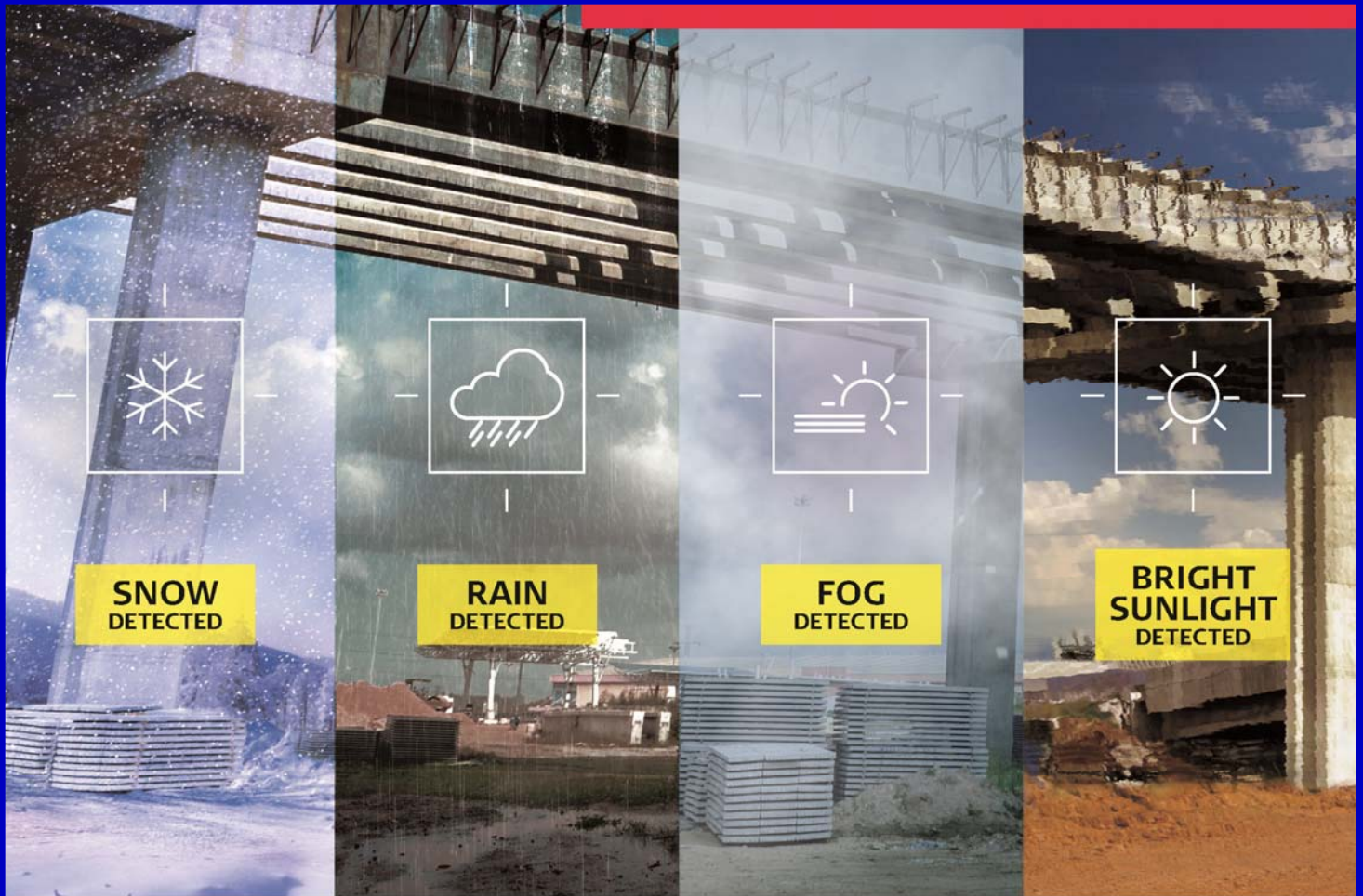
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Classifieds

ENGINEERING (SURVEY) TECHNICIAN I/II

The Modesto Irrigation District is currently recruiting to fill one full-time regular position to perform a variety of technical surveying duties including field work, data collection, research, drafting, and mapping; to perform varied calculations for the District's electrical and/or irrigation system; and to perform field inspections.

Salary \$27.23 - \$38.48 Hourly

Location: 1231 11th Street, Modesto, CA

Typical Duties:

- Prepare, maintain and revise drawings, maps blueprints
- Must possess AutoCAD skills.
- Conduct periodic and final inspections of construction projects
- Prepare surveying reports, studies, and job packets

For a complete list of duties and position requirements/information go to <http://www.mid.org/careers/>

LICENSED LAND SURVEYOR NEEDED

Caltrans District 10 (Stockton) will be looking for a Licensed Land Surveyor. This position is for an office Project Surveyor who oversees right of way / boundary surveys (TS Range D). Currently, we do not have an active CalCareers posting, but one will be forthcoming. Qualified applicants my contact:

Greg Hartman, PLS

Office Supervisor

Central Region Surveys - D10

greg.hartman@dot.ca.gov

(209) 942-6166

STOLEN EQUIPMENT REGISTRY

Did you know that NSPS has a stolen equipment registry? Submit the following information by email to trisha.milburn@nsps.us.com

1. Description of Instruments including Serial Number
2. Location where equipment was stolen, include nearest Town and State
3. Date stolen
4. Contact person to provide information, include phone and/or email

Know of an available job. Please submit the position information to:

editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org

Just for Laughs

1. Who was the first licensed Land Surveyor in the State of California?
2. What year was the first license issued for a Land Surveyor in the state of California?
3. Who was the first President of CLSA?
4. Who was the first County Surveyor of Stanislaus County?
5. Who was the first US Surveyor General?
6. What was the first college in the new world to issue Surveying Examinations?
7. Who was the first "Life Time Member" of the Central Valley Chapter of CLSA?
8. When was the first issue of The Prism released?
9. What two companies were the first to sponsor The Prism?
10. When was the first Subdivision Map Act released?

Answers in January's edition

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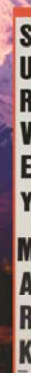
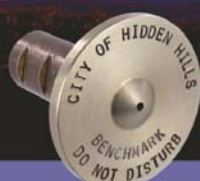
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