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INFRASTRUCTURE HAS NEW FRIENDS

Local engineers are determined to improve infrastructure region-wide. They have formed a group within the San Diego Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) to be advocates and technical advisors for public works projects and policies.

Among the priorities of the new group are projects that replace and maintain water and sewer systems, conserve water and recycle wastewater, and improve streets, drainage systems, and parks.

The group's nine-member Steering Committee considers requests for involvement from members or public agencies. A Call for Action is then sent to the network directory, which is maintained in confidence by the ASCE San Diego Section. Members recently responded to Calls for Action to support desalination at a San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting, and to support indirect potable reuse at a City of San Diego Council Meeting.

"We hope to build as big a network as possible," said Katherine Hon, Steering Committee Chair and ASCE San Diego Section Director for Public Relations. "We know that public agencies want to hear objective voices when they consider infrastructure issues."

The new group began reaching out to agencies with a presentation at an April lunch gathering of city engineers. Friends of Infrastructure is also planning a professionally facilitated workshop on dealing with the media in September, which will feature a panel of local print, radio, and television representatives.

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