



# Summary

## New Stormwater Pollution Prevention Requirements

The Santa Clara Valley Chapter of The Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) would like to extend an invitation to you to join them on Thursday, October 2nd, 2003 for dinner and to find out more about new stormwater pollution prevention requirements.

The cities in Santa Clara Valley have a State permit to discharge stormwater to San Francisco Bay, which was recently amended to include new requirements for stormwater control and treatment at large development projects. In addition, the State recently adopted new requirements for stormwater pollution prevention at construction sites as small as one acre. In this presentation you will find out what these requirements are, when they apply, and how they will affect your business or project. In addition, you will learn about different types of stormwater pollution prevention and treatment measures and

resources available to help with their design.

Our speaker is Jill Bicknell, P.E. of EOA, Inc., an environmental consulting firm that manages the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program. She serves as Assistant Program Manager and assists the 15 agencies to comply with their joint stormwater permit. Ms. Bicknell is a water resources engineer with a masters degree from Stanford University and over 20 years of consulting engineering and project management experience. She has extensive knowledge of stormwater treatment best management practices and has given numerous presentations throughout the Bay area and State on the new development requirements.

AIA/CES Learning Units: This program meets AIA/CES criteria. Participants will receive 1 hour of LUS (learning units) which also applies to 1 HSW (Health, Safety Welfare) hour.

When: **THURSDAY, October 2, 2003**  
Location: Ramada Inn Silicon Valley, 1217 Wildwood Avenue, Sunnyvale  
(Lawrence Expressway and 101)  
Times: Social hour: 6:30 PM  
Dinner: 7:00 PM Dinner Cost: \$25 per person  
Program: 8:00 PM

RSVP: Please call Harry Hedges (408) 378-2762 and leave a message or email [hharki@aol.com](mailto:hharki@aol.com)  
RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED \*\*\*\*\* Call prior to Noon on Tuesday, September 30, 2003 \*\*\*\*\*

## Benefits of Membership in CSI

- CEU's (LU's) earned by attending the monthly meetings and seminars
- Low cost insurance
- *Construction Specifier* magazine
- Knowledge and learning
- Networking with some of the most successful professionals in the industry

## Minutes of the Board Meeting

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Minutes of the Board Meeting  
Santa Clara Valley Chapter CSI  
(Draft – Board Approval Pending)

Place: Ramada Inn, Sunnyvale

Date: Sept. 4, 2003

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Present: Jim Balboni,  
Marvin Bamburg,  
Hannah Moyer,  
Krista Nelson,  
Harry Hades,  
Gilbert Johnston,  
Gus Sharvey

**1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Chapter President Jim Balboni.**

**2. Minutes from last meeting were accepted as corrected.** Gus will reissue for Newsletter.

**3. Treasurers Report:** Marvin passed revised FY04 around. We need chairperson for Education Seminar initiatives. Specification Principles is one topic to consider. Base seminars on 50 attendees, average \$110 each. Buy tables at \$150 each? Prospects can be architects, contractors, specifiers, engineers. Potential income sources were discussed. It was moved to delete Item 107.2, Directory. It was also moved to add Item 114, Golf Tournament, with budget of \$1,906. Marvin will adjust Item 202 figures for Regional Convention. It was moved to change title of Item 214 from "Leadership Conference" to "CSI University." Item 218, Internet should be changed

to "11 months x \$40." Item 216 Credit Cards: Marvin to check on deal obtained by Monterey Chapter. Website is a specification source, pay chapters for advertising value. Could amount to \$10k per year. It was moved to leave for next month. Budget as amended by Marvin should be included in the Newsletter.

**4. Region Director's Report:** Gil reviewed methods of collecting dues. Regional Agenda reviewed, each state one vote. Officers not to vote on regional matters.

**5. President's Report:** Combined with Income Stream Report. Invite architects, engineers, contractors and specwriters to tabletop presentation, \$800 total charge, have awards ceremony with beer & wine hosted by chapter. 45 people to look at exhibit. Consider Cinnabar Golf Course Tournament.

**6. Unfinished Business:** See Treasurer's Report.

**7. New Business:** None.

#### **8. Committee Reports:**

**a. Education/Income Stream Task Team:** See President's Report.

**b. Programs:** Krista will put together programs for the coming year.

**c. AIA Liaison:** No report.

**d. Membership Chairman** not present.

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- e. Newsletter Editor not present.
  - f. Webmaster not present.
  - g. Awards/Historian: No report.
  - h. Operating/House: No report.
  - i. No activity.
9. Announcements: None.
10. Meeting adjourned 6:27 PM.

## Mike Caldwell

The Santa Clara Chapter is very sad to inform those that may not know: Mike Caldwell passed away on September 14, 2003, at home with his family. We send the family our condolences and compassion at this difficult time. Mike was active in the Redwood Empire Chapter and the West Region, as well as being a friend to many of us.

## CSI CERTIFICATION NATIONWIDE EXAM 2004

Mark your calendars now! The CSI Certification Nationwide exam date is March 27, 2004 and registration opens September 1, 2003. It's time to help industry members stand out and be recognized, CSI Certification sets you apart! Also, don't forget to get your copy of the MOP now - get your copies now and be prepared for your chapter's study courses!

## ASHRAE 90.1 Addendum Assists in Energy Use Reduction

Guidance to reduce energy use through lighting technology and techniques is contained in an addendum to the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers' (ASHRAE) energy conservation standard. Addendum 90.1g revises the lighting power limits allowed under ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1-2001, Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings. The standard provides the minimum requirements for the design of energy efficient buildings.

The revisions in addendum g incorporate recent research on fluorescent fixture light loss factors and space type characteristics of new commercial construction, as well as revised lighting level recommendations as published in the IESNA Lighting Handbook Ninth edition, according to Eric Richman, chair of the 90.1 lighting subcommittee.

The new lighting requirements could mean an estimated 29 percent decrease in the power used for lighting in buildings with lighting designs that now only just meet the current standard requirement. In terms of total building energy use, this could be

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## TechNotes

### CSI University

*"The reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated."* – Mark Twain.

Despite many dire warnings and predictions, it appears to me that CSI is not on its deathbed. It may have caught a cold, and there may have been a few complications, but it seems that the organization is doing quite well at fighting off its troubles.

In June I had the pleasure of seeing some of the activities at the first CSI-University. Given the bad press this event had received, and having a few misgivings of my own, I was prepared to see a small number of the old farts just hanging around and complaining about the good old days. Much to my delight, when I walked into the hotel lobby I thought I was at the annual convention!

Hoping for two hundred, the staff had their hands full with half again as many attendees. Yes, many elder, diehard members were there, but there were lots of fresh new faces, as well. And the excitement and energy were fantastic! Intense discussion, camaraderie, smiling faces, and even a few arguments - again, it was just like the annual convention.

At the change of leadership ceremony outgoing President McDade, in his engaging good ol'-boy style, recalled the events of the last year. Going in, he had hoped for the most peaceful, uneventful term of office in history. Instead, he walked

into an inferno - a year that saw the loss of an executive director, Institute officers resigning in mid-term, and a variety of other not-so-peaceful incidents. Phil has my unqualified admiration for the way he got us through a rough year. I sincerely believe he was the right man in office at the right time; others might well have lost control.

As Phil said his farewell, he introduced Edith Washington, now President of the Institute. Entering to the fanfare from the Rocky films, she filled the room with her usual energy (where does she get it?). I was later fortunate to find some time in Edith's busy schedule to drag her into one of the late-night bull sessions, where a small group asked rather pointed questions, and discussed a variety of issues. During our brief encounter, Edith made it clear that she is going to everything possible to revive our organization and get it moving forward again.

All in all, I'd have to say that CSI-U was a success. The real test will be in how much of the zeal and excitement makes it home to the regions and the chapters, but there was enough there that it couldn't all have been lost on the way home.

A few weeks later I attended the North Central Region Conference, sponsored by the Twin Ports Chapter in Duluth, Minnesota. Again I was impressed by the enthusiasm, and the mix of old and new faces. I also had an opportunity to talk with Michael

Owen, Institute Vice President, and Gary Betts, President-Elect, and to listen to Karl Borgstrom, our new Executive Director. All of them are well aware of the problems we face, and all are intent on not just surviving, but moving forward. And the members - the lifeblood of any organization - are alive and well, with no plans to give up the ghost.

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## TechTalk

### Perfection is Unobtainable

Or  
**An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure**

In previous articles, I have made the assertion that, for many reasons, it is next to impossible to produce the perfect set of construction documents. The base fact is that there are just too many variables and factors (including the human factor) involved with a construction project to make perfection possible. With Owners demanding that construction documents be produced in less time and for less fees than ever before, you can see that this mix is a recipe for documents not up to the quality required for a successful project (and you know who is going to yell the loudest when the inevi-

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table change orders occur).

With that said, what, then, can be done to ensure that at least an “industry standard”(which, in a legal situation, your documents will be judged against) or better level of quality documents is accomplished? The answer: A competent and consistent quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) program. I’m sure that by now you’ve all heard the words or even been involved with some sort of quality control process. As it relates to the production of construction documents (drawings and specifications), the QA/QC process is performed by senior, experienced members of the firm, typically on projects in which they have no involvement. Don’t ever attempt a QA/QC on your own project because, believe me, it doesn’t work (it’s so easy to overlook mistakes when you’ve been staring at the same drawings for months at a time). One other common mistake is to review your documents only when the final construction documents are nearing completion, as things can be way off track by

then, which could require massive amounts of rework for both the Architect and the engineering consultants (there goes any profit you would have made!). At the very least, a QA/QC check should occur during each of the document production phases: schematic design, design development and construction documents. You’ll have a far greater chance that your project will be headed in the right direction with a successful outcome.

The QA/QC process of reviewing the construction documents is commonly facilitated through the use of checklists, one for each of the above mentioned document production phases. Because more detail and pertinent information is added at each phase of the project, the checklists also become more detailed and lengthy with each passing phase. Ideally, these checklists should not only be used by the QA/QC plan-checker, but also by the people creating the documents during their production. Checklists will go so far, but there is no substitution for the knowledge and experiences of the senior designers/

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**Planning Calendar  
2003**

October 2 - Storm Water Prevention Plan - Fact vs. Fiction

November - New Name and Manual for an Association We Used to Call WIC

December - Holiday Party

Visit our website at  
[www.csiscv.org](http://www.csiscv.org) or

The West Region’s website  
at [www.westregioncsi.org](http://www.westregioncsi.org)

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## The Green Corner

### “RECYCLED CONTENT” DEFINED... ENDING CONFUSION

Most of us think we know what defines recycled content, but what you may not know is that single-attribute claims, such as “recycled content,” are regulated by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), and defined concisely by many other organizations. Architect, designer, specifier, general contractor, or owner should have a working definition of such terms as well.

Scientific Certification Systems (SCS), based in Emeryville, California, has established a certification program to create standards and benchmarks for environmental claims, environmental preferability, life cycle assessment, and forest conservation programs (FSC).

For example, within Environmental Claims, SCS has a scientific program for independently verifying the accuracy of environmental claims on products. When it comes to recycled content, you see claims like 50% recycled content, when it should be stated as either XX% post-consumer, XX% post-industrial, or XX% post consumer and XX% post industrial recycled content if it contains both.

Here are SCS’s definitions:

#### **Post-Consumer Waste**

This is a product or package, which has been discarded by an individual, commercial enter-

prise, or other public or private entity after having fulfilled its intended application or use. Easy examples would be pop bottles, plastic bottles, and waste newsprint - lots of what goes in your recycling bin.

#### **Post Industrial Waste**

A material, which has been generated as a by-product of a given process, which has properties significantly different from those of the original material, and therefore in its current form, cannot be recycled back through the same process. Easy examples would be taking carpet mill floor waste and producing another type of flooring product, or any different product.

#### **Industrial Scrap**

In contrast, Industrial Scrap is not considered to be recycled.

Industrial scrap is a material, which has been generated as a by-product of a given process, which has properties allowing it to be recycled back through the same process. Industrial scrap, referred to often as floor scrap by SCS, FTC or many other organizations. Why? Because the waste material, like scrap paper in paper manufacturing, is routinely swept up and put back into the same manufacturing processing.

For projects registered for the US Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System, recycled content materials specified according to these definitions contribute to LEED Credits MR 4.1 and 4.2, Recycled Content.

For more information on recycled content definitions and environmental standards, go to the Federal Trade Commission guidelines in 16 CFR, Part 260, Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims at <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/grnrule/guides980427.htm>, or Scientific Certification Systems at [www.scscertified.com](http://www.scscertified.com).

Next month look for information on the newest trend – beyond recycled to environmentally preferable.

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## The Last Straw/ TLS Moves

<http://www.thelaststraw.org>

The Last Straw/TLS, the international quarterly journal of strawbale and natural building has moved to Lincoln, Neb. The new publisher is The Green Prairie Foundation for Sustainability/GPFS, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charity promoting and exploring alternative materials and methods for construction, new markets for ag fiber and crop residues, education and training, research and testing, and demonstrations of the potential and possibilities of sustainable agriculture, manufacturing and construction. Visit the TLS Web site at [www.thelaststraw.org](http://www.thelaststraw.org).

## Obstacles to Quality Construction

By consensus of the experts, it turns out that the most fundamental obstacles to quality construction are not of a technical nature, but rather they are faults of the marketplace and of the construction process itself.

Building materials, technology and tools have actually improved measurably over the past 20 years, even as quality has deteriorated, or, at best, not improved much.

Typical symptoms of poor quality remain the same as they have for decades: water intrusion at the building envelope, and the occasional structural failure.

Leaky roofs and structural design are legitimate topics for technical exploration, but let us first address the higher order problems with the construction process.

The Construction Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) published a list of four industry “trends” that the most successful contractors follow. These all correlate with obstacles to quality in construction identified in the recent Special Report on Quality sponsored by the Engineering News-Record (cover story, Botched Buildings, May 14, 2001). The four “trends” are:

- Work Force
- Procurement
- Project Delivery

- Field Productivity Improvement

As it has evolved over many decades, the construction process consists of a triangular relationship between the Owner, Architect/Engineer, and the Contractor. As construction professionals we tend to look into our own most familiar corners of the triangle to identify quality issues. These will likely be issues of design, for example, if we are an architect or engineer.

But in the larger view of the industry, the Owners’ corner has to take a considerable portion of the responsibility for creating obstacles to quality. Owners bring this upon themselves by demanding more for less and by trying to enforce unrealistic schedules. The market takes over by providing corner-cutters who feed the Owners’ fantasies. This is the formula for botched buildings. Higher quality will result only when we educate Owners and refuse to indulge their unreasonable expectations.

Having blasted the Owners in this article, we can proceed to analyze other non-technical and technical obstacles to quality in future articles. These topics may include among others:

- Quality in the building envelope.
- The adversarial climate in construction.
- Recent improvements in design methods and materials.
- The increasing complexity of projects.

- The brain drain and low compensation

Watch for upcoming articles on these and other construction topics. If you want to contact or discuss these topics with the author please contact Jim Faull at [jimfaull@hillintl.com](mailto:jimfaull@hillintl.com).

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architects. This knowledge not only includes the understanding of the architectural elements of the project, but also the civil, mechanical, plumbing, electrical, etc. disciplines. A checklist may say that this or that needs to be coordinated, but you have to know what you are looking at/for. There is just so much to be aware of that this type of “big picture” conscience can only be obtained through involvement in many different types projects over the span of several years.

In addition, the QA/QC process should never be done by the Architect in a vacuum. All of the Architect’s consultants need to be intimately involved with the coordination and integration of their work into the project at each phase. In order for the overall QA/QC process to be a success, each consultant should be required to have an active in-house QA/QC program as well. I have observed a disturbing trend over the years where once the project starts the construc-

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## GUIBytes

### Twenty Years Ago, Part 4 - CPU

ENIAC (electronic numerical integrator and computer), the first electronic digital computer, had about 19,000 vacuum tubes and hundreds of thousands of resistors, capacitors, and other components, and consumed nearly 200 kilowatts. Vacuum tubes were nowhere near as reliable as solid state components, and the vast number meant that some of them burned out every day, so it was almost a full time job just keeping the thing going.

Despite its size, ENIAC wasn't a very smart computer by today's standards. It could do simple math, and extract square roots, but it could store only twenty 10-digit numbers. Still, it could do in 30 seconds what a person with a desk calculator could do in twenty hours. Not bad for a dumb machine!

The first solid state personal computers weren't much of an improvement over their vacuum tube predecessors; all had to be programmed to do even the simplest of calculations. Input was done by setting switches, and output was by means of lights or meters, which had to be interpreted to get the answer to the question.

It wasn't until the 1970's that practical computers became available for personal use. When I bought the QX-10, the dominant chip was the Zilog Z-80.

One way to classify CPU chips is by the size of the pieces of information it processes. The Z-80 was an 8-bit chip, meaning it could process a piece of data 8 bits in size.

"Okay, what's a bit?" you ask. Computers "think" in binary, or base-2 numbers. Instead of the ten digits we use for math, the computer uses only two digits, a zero and a one. Though difficult for humans to use, this system is convenient for computers, as a simple switch or other on-off device can be used for each digit. Switch off - zero. Switch on - one.

At any rate, most computers use binary math, and most personal computers are classified by the number of bits they can process. While the QX-10 and the IBM PC could process 8-bit data, today's computers can take information in 32-bit chunks, so each process potentially can handle four times as much information.

That's a nice increase, but the real development has been the processing speed. That smokin' Z-80 in my QX-10 would perform about four million operations per second (4 megahertz, or 4MHz). The first common Intel chip, the 8080, was about the same. In the last couple of years, the plain-vanilla home computer has passed the gigahertz (GHz) mark, now performing billions of operations each second.

For a long time, it seemed that as soon as a more powerful chip was released, software would expand, and computers could not keep up with software demands.

That has changed, now, depending on the applications you use. For those of us who are mostly pushing words, a relatively slow 333 MHz computer works about as well as one running at 3 GHz. The real pressure now comes from graphics-intensive programs like CAD, but even more from games. Those animated action games that portray lifelike characters moving in real time take a lot of power!

bus) port. The ones I bought hold 128 megabytes each, but they are now available with up to one gigabyte capacity.

The picture shows an 8-inch floppy, a 3-1/2 inch floppy, and a Lexar JumpDrive. Quite a change - from a disk nearly as big as a notebook that would hold 100K, to something small enough to hang on your keychain that will store ten million times as much as the big disk!

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a reduction of around 6 percent for all energy used in commercial buildings across the country.

The requirements will help eliminate remaining inefficient lighting design practices and encourage all designers to become more energy efficient, according to Mr. Richman. Published addenda to ASHRAE standards are available for free at ASHRAE Online, <http://www.ashrae.org>.

## SUMMARY

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tion document phase, everyone goes their own way until the final documents are due. Face-to-face coordination meetings are an absolute necessity if the different pieces of the puzzle are to come together in an efficient and timely manner. As previously stated, rework, usually caused by lack of communication, is not profitable – it costs as much to erase a line as it does to draw a new one.

Obviously, the QA/QC of a project takes time. The time associated with this process should be scheduled into the project workplan, with the corresponding dollars budgeted into the project's fee structure. With the aforementioned lessening of fees to perform the same amount of work, the dollars required to provide a competent QA/QC means that time/dollars have to be subtracted from that allotted for the production of the documents (what a vicious cycle!). Every once in a while, you'll run across an Owner who sees the value and benefit of, and is willing to spend some additional money for, a good QA/QC, resulting in "tighter" documents, better numbers at bid time and minimal change orders. But so to date, those Owners are the exception, not the rule. Doesn't it make sense that if you want high quality provided in less time that there is an increased cost associated to accomplish that goal? I'm probably preaching to the choir on that one, though.

To summarize, these days, a good

QA/QC program has to be an essential part of the production of design and construction documents in order to remain competitive in the market, maintain your reputation for production of quality documents and stay out of legal troubles. Both literally and figuratively, you can't afford not to.

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### **MORE THAN YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW**

**All 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the \$5 bill.**

**Almonds are a member of the peach family.**

**An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.**

**Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2 to 6 years of age.**

**Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds.....Dogs only have about 10.**

**"Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt."**

**February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.**

**In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.**

### **NOTHING IS FUNNIER THAN THE TRUTH**

1. Only in America.....can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance.

2. Only in America.....are there handicap parking places in front of a skating rink.

3. Only in America.....do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.

4. Only in America.....do people order double cheese burgers, large fries, and a diet coke.

5. Only in America.....do banks leave both doors open and then chain the pens to the counters.

6. Only in America.....do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage.

7. Only in America.....do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have call waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place.

8. Only in America.....do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight.

9. Only in America.....do we use the word 'politics' to describe the process so well: 'Poli' in Latin meaning 'many' and 'tics' meaning 'bloodsucking creatures'.

10. Only in America.....do they have drive-up ATM machines with Braille lettering.