CALIFORNIA INFRASTRUCTURE RECEIVES A C-

On Tuesday, May 7th, 2019, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) released the 2019 California Infrastructure Report Card in Sacramento. Overall, our state’s aging infrastructure earns us a grade of "C-". This is not something most of us would be proud of.

The grades in ASCE’s Report Card are graded on eight key criteria: condition, capacity, funding, future need, operation and maintenance, public safety, innovation, and resilience. An overall grade of "C-" means our infrastructure is in mediocre condition and requires attention. In addition to the overall grade, the Report Card includes 17 individual category grades and is riddled with grades in the D range.

The day began with the release of the 2019 California Infrastructure Report Card, followed by remarks from State Assembly Members and the California Business Roundtable. Members from ASCE Region 9’s Sections and Branches, including our very own Orange County Branch, attended the press release and met with their decision makers later that afternoon to discuss the urgent need to improve our infrastructure.

Share the 2019 California Infrastructure Report Card: https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/state-item/california/

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During the afternoon meetings, ASCE members briefed their elected officials on the grades California received and discussed potential solutions and collaboration opportunities. Although some efforts, such as Senate Bill 1, have provided additional revenue, the state still has a costly investment gap resulted from years of under-investment, outdated infrastructure, and natural and man-made disasters.

To improve our grades, we urged our legislators to consider the following recommendations:

- **Promote effective and collaborative leadership**
- **Develop smart plans to better identify funding needs**
- **Increase state and local funding**
- **Inform the public and raise awareness**

As civil engineers responsible for protecting the public's quality of life, we have the technical expertise and professional duty to help our communities and lawmakers work towards a comprehensive infrastructure investment plan. We encourage you to share the grades with your friends, families, and legislators to help promote the improvement, repair, and modernization of our infrastructure.