



ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

2019 CALIFORNIA GRADES ARE IN!

They likely won't be posted on the fridge.



CALIFORNIA INFRASTRUCTURE RECEIVES A C-

CALIFORNIA GRADES

GPA **C-**

AVIATION	C+	PORTS	C+
BRIDGES	C-	PUBLIC PARKS	D+
DAMS	C-	RAIL	C
DRINKING WATER	C	ROADS	D
ENERGY	D-	SCHOOLS	C
HAZARDOUS WASTE	C-	SOLID WASTE	C-
INLAND WATERWAYS	D	STORMWATER	D+
LEVEES	D	TRANSIT	C-
		WASTEWATER	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/>
There's an App for that!
Search Save America's Infrastructure on App Store or Google Play

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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have provided additional revenue, the state still has a costly investment gap resulted from years of under-investment, outdated infrastructure, and natural and man-made disasters.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.



Want to get involved in ASCE OC Government Relations? Contact our Committee chairs, Adeleine Tran and Patrick Tierney, at grchairs@asceoc.org.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO RAISE THE GRADES?

To raise California's infrastructure grade, ASCE developed the following four recommendations:

- 1 PROMOTE EFFECTIVE AND COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP** ASCE encourages all levels of government, business, labor, and nonprofits to collaborate to address challenges associated with California's aging infrastructure. Effective leadership within agencies is critical, and those individuals should be empowered with applicable decision-making authority. Streamlining the project permitting process across infrastructure is also necessary, with safeguards to protect the national environment.
- 2 DEVELOP SMART PLANS TO BETTER IDENTIFY FUNDING NEEDS** Asset management plans enable state and local agencies to make informed decisions on where – and when to spend limited public funds. Policies should be enacted that require high quality data gathering and regularly scheduled maintenance. Further, life cycle cost analysis and risk analysis, which are valuable strategies to extending the lifespan of an asset and saving the taxpayer money in the long run, should be employed for projects costing greater than \$5 million.
- 3 INCREASE STATE AND LOCAL FUNDING** Each category evaluated in this report indicates currently available funding to state and local agencies is not adequate to maintain sustainable and safe California infrastructure systems. Long-term funding strategies should be established, based on new and sustained revenue sources, including local and state revenue. Incentives may be appropriate, and adequate funding for innovative new materials, technologies, and processes is imperative.
- 4 INFORM THE PUBLIC AND RAISE AWARENESS** There is a need for additional consumer education on the current funding needs and the negative impacts of delaying action to fund infrastructure improvements statewide. The education needs to also extend to the local and state legislators, locally elected boards and commissions, as well as to the media.



Thanks to our members for representing Orange County: Jose Baron Jr; Mojgan (MJ) Hashemi, P.E.; John Hogan, P.E.; Steven L. King, P.E.; Kenneth Rosenfield, P.E.; Elizabeth Ruedas, PE, QSD, QISP, ENV SP, LEED GA; Patrick Tierney; Adeleine J. Tran, P.E.; Lenard Tran, P.E.; and Jeff Wykoff, P.E.!