



CLSA
CALIFORNIA LAND SURVEYORS
ASSOCIATION

eNewsletter

March 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Joseph Padilla, PLS
President, CLSA

Questions? Comments?
Concerns? Contact me:
JoePadilla@johnson-frank.com or (714)-777-8877

Greetings, Fellow Surveyors,

After following up with Central Office, I found out that our corporate membership is over the 1,000 mark and we have nearly 300 corporate members who have not renewed their membership yet.

Kimi Shigetani, our Executive Director, sent out reminders for those who have not renewed yet. Membership is the association's lifeblood and larger membership numbers strengthen our fiscal standing and increases our advocacy power. Membership rosters are due on July 31, 2025, and I feel we are off to a good start.

Our joint conference with NALS is approaching fast, starting on Saturday, March 29, 2025, with the Workshop seminars and the official Opening on Sunday, March 30, 2025. Also we may have Break Session Sponsorships available at \$500.00 each. We also need door prizes for the Vendor Hall Breaks (wine bottles are always popular). Again, contact Central Office to set up delivery of your donations. Lastly, Silent and Live Auction donations are needed. If you have anything you would like to donate, it needs to be done quickly, the conference is less than two weeks away.

I was at a CLSA Joint Dinner meeting with the Orange County, Riverside/San Bernardino, Los Angeles, and Cal Poly Pomona student chapters at Cal Poly Pomona. Bill Hofferberg and I were able to hand out scholarships to some of the Cal Poly students (others had already

received their scholarships in the mail). Both the Orange County and Riverside/San Bernardino chapters award a \$1,000 Ryan Versteeg Memorial Scholarship, and for the first time the chapters awarded the scholarship to the same person, Daisy Fuentes. Ryan's parents, Ron and Pam, were in attendance, as well as Ryan's wife, Staneli, and his children, Maya and Nathan. I think it's worth mentioning that for the last few years, Ron and Pam have been funding this scholarship for the chapters. At this dinner meeting I the Orange County chapter and I discussed the need for sponsorships for student volunteers. The Orange County chapter voted to give two sponsorships, and Bill Hofferberg said he would try and persuade the Riverside/San Bernardino chapter to sponsor one student. We also received commitments from Michael Baker International, Psomas, Johnson-Frank Associates, and KDM Meridian, bringing our count to seven sponsors. If there are any other chapters or businesses that would like to sponsor students, please send Central Office a check for \$350.00.

As I'm writing this letter, I am heading up to Sacramento for a State Assembly Resolution for Land Surveyor's Week. I would like to thank Adam Quinonez and Mike Belote at California Advocates for putting this together. I never thought I would ever be at the State Capitol to receive anything.

I will see you at the Conference and please feel free to introduce yourself

Joseph Padilla, PLS

President CLSA 2025

WHERE IN CALIFORNIA IS THIS?



The February “Where in CA” was south of Indio, CA, on the westerly side of State Highway 86. The following people correctly identified the location: Philip Melcher, John Henderson, Andrew LaBine, and, with a detailed description, I will rely on Desert Dweller, Historian, and Land Surveyor Tim Reilly:

“This one was easy. That's Travertine Point, aka Travertine Rock, near the Imperial/Riverside County line. There are many shrines that have been placed amongst the rocks and graffiti. I've driven by it many times and twice have used the remains of the triangulation station on top of that rocky hill as horizontal control in my surveys. The NGS datasheet for station “Travertine” says the station was marked was a typical Caltrans disc, originally stamped 1971. However, a 1974 Caltrans control survey (R/W 231) states that the disc was set by U.S. Army Engineers. A souvenir hunter must have thought the brass disc was valuable and removed it from its setting. All that remains is a drill hole and partial brass stem.

Travertine Point has a historical role in our local surveying. When railroad surveys were ordered by the Secretary of War, Jefferson Davis, circa 1853, it became the role of Topographical Engineer Lieutenant R.S. Williamson to find a suitable route for the railroad to connect the 35th and 32nd parallels. It was when the railroad surveyors rounded Travertine Point that they realized their route would connect Tehachapi & Los Angeles on the 35th parallel to Fort Yuma on the 32nd parallel. William P. Blake, who accompanied the survey as geologist and mineralogist, described the occasion in his journal:

“...From these rocks I obtained a fine view of the Great Desert, stretching off towards the southeast in a wide, apparently limitless, plain, its only boundary the unbroken outline upon the distant horizon. Not a green spot in all this wide expanse was to be seen ; the bald mountains near me were not only free from trees, but there was not even earth to cover the

rocks. The mountains opposite extended off towards the east until they were lost to sight in a series of low summits of a deep-blue color. The intensity and richness of the colors of the distant hills was very striking and beautiful. Blue, purple, and red were the prevailing tints, and their clearness and depth were remarkable. They were delicately blended one with the other, and produced a most beautiful effect, which it is impossible to describe..."

The photo in this month's newsletter was taken about 100 feet below sea level. The 1853 railroad survey was first to mention in their report that the area was formerly under a massive body of water. A sketch of the ancient water line along the rocky mountains accompanied Blake's report. See attached. The level of today's Salton Sea is several hundred feet below the ancient water line.

The Second Standard Parallel South, S.B.M., passes very near the photo location. The original 1855 GLO surveyor set the standard quarter-section corner on the North line of Section 5 "about 20 chains North of a "round rocky hill". (Oddly, the standard corners were originally set to control corners on the North boundary of the T. 9 S.) A later 1922 GLO surveyor called the rocky hill "Tuva Point". His notes in T. 8 S., R. 9 E., S.B.M. returned a bearing from at least one corner monument to a flag on top of the hill."

Try to identify the location from where this month's beautiful photo was taken. Please tell me how you identified the location. Submit your answer and/or your photo of a special location for use in a future CLSA eNews to: [Rob McMillan](#)



SURVEYING IN THE NEWS

2025 CLSA MEMBERSHIP

Don't forget to renew your CLSA membership! Now is the time to renew, join, or rejoin CLSA to support all the work the association does to enhance and advance the profession. Log in to your CLSA Member Account and click "My Profile" to view your membership balance due and renew today!

[RENEW MEMBERSHIP](#)

THE CLSA/NALS REGIONAL SURVEY CONFERENCE IS JUST A WEEK AWAY!



The CLSA/NALS Regional Survey Conference will be held March 29 – April 1, 2025. See <http://plseducation.org/> for more information. Register now and book your hotel rooms! There are sponsorships still available!

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

NATIONAL SURVEYORS WEEK 2025 – CELEBRATE THE PROFESSION!



NSPS reminds us to “Mark your calendars for National Surveyors Week, March 16-22, 2025! This annual event honors the invaluable contributions of surveyors in shaping our world. National Surveyors Week allows us opportunities to educate and inform others:

- Explore Surveying Careers – Folks can learn about diverse opportunities in this vital profession.
- Share Experiences – Inspire the next generation by telling your surveying story.
- Mentor Someone – Guide aspiring surveyors on their career path.
- Engage with Industry – Invite an engineering firm to speak to your group or class.
- Host an Event – Organize lunch with a surveyor as a guest speaker.
 - Psst... THEY LOVE FOOD

Did you know?

- President Ronald Reagan officially proclaimed National Surveyors Week on February 13, 1984!
- Global Surveyors Day is March 21

2024 CLSA PRESIDENT NEHRING, PLS, ACCEPTS SURVEYORS’ WEEK PROCLAMATION

Kevin Nehring, PLS, Fresno's Deputy County Surveyor, posted on his LinkedIn:

"I had the privilege to attend the Tulare City Council 03 March, 2025, to represent the California Land Surveyors Association to receive a Proclamation from Mayor Patrick Isherwood and the Tulare City Council in recognition of National Land Surveyors' Week. Thank you to the City of Tulare for recognizing the efforts of the surveying community. The Association and the San Joaquin Valley Chapter of the California Land Surveyor's Association (SJV CLSA) was well represented by Ronald Snow, Ben Mullins, Mike Knopf, Rob Abrahamian, Katrina Olsen, and Jocelyn Limas, PLS. (Special thanks to Jocelyn for organizing the effort with the City.)"

CONGRATULATIONS SARAH WELLS BECOMES PROJECT SURVEYOR AT PLSA



Sarah Wells wrote on her LinkedIn:

"I'm very happy to announce that I've accepted a position as Project Surveyor at PLSA here in San Diego! Land Surveyors and Civil Engineers are always in need, so please reach out if you or anyone you know in the SD area has any interest!"

Sarah started her surveying career as an Assistant Engineer Drafter with Rick Engineering, and progressed through roles at Ashley & Vance Engineering, Coast Engineering & Survey, RRM Design Group prior to joining PLSA.

THANK YOU WILLIAM ESTEPA PERFORMING OUTREACH TO CHINO HILLS HIGH



William Estepa, PLS, Survey Manager at Psomas, shared on his LinkedIn page:

“This week I went to Chino Hills High School as guest speaker to talk about my profession Land Surveying. The Student Career Exploration Club hosts a guest speaker once a month. Professionals from different industries come to speak about their profession, give students career ideas, and provide exposure to a variety of fields to help students struggling with their choice of career path for the future.”

Perfect timing Will, with National Land Surveyors’ Week right around the corner!

CONGRATULATIONS JOSE CONTRERAS, ADDS LETTERS “LSIT” AFTER NAME



Jose shared on his LinkedIn page:

“I’m happy to share that I’ve obtained a new certification: Land Surveyor In Training from California Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists!”

Jose is a Surveying Technician with the Port of Long Beach. He was formerly a Land Surveying Aide with the Los Angeles Unified School District. He holds two Associate of

Science degrees: in Land Surveying from Santiago Canyon, and Geospatial Engineering and Technologies from East Los Angeles College (ELAC). Congratulations Jose!

DAILY LAND SURVEYING QUIZ QUESTION FROM KYLE BROOK AT CONFLUENCE

Kyle Brook, PLS, provides a unique service to the profession in the form of a free daily quiz question to keep us all sharp, we hope! “Yesterday's question had a correct response rate of about 35-40%.”

The time it takes for a signal at the GNSS satellite to travel to a receiver is known as:

- A Propagation Delay
- B Orbital Clock Bias
- C P Code Ranging
- D Phase shift

Enter your response in the form on the Confluence website at https://lnkd.in/gusDg_uw (expires after 1 week). Follow for more! This question was originally posted Mar 11, 2025, to see them day of subscribe to our Daily Survey E-mail List at <https://lnkd.in/gvnprkaV>

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



The California High-Speed Rail Authority is soliciting Statements of Qualifications from qualified firms for Right-of-Way Engineering and Survey Support Services. Download the Requests for Qualifications from the California State Contracts Register webpage at www.caleprocure.ca.gov.

Statements of Qualifications are due on the date and time and at the location described in each respective Request for Qualifications. Questions may be submitted to CapitalProcurement@hsr.ca.gov.

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That CAD Girl



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SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the California Land Surveyors Association, Inc. as a Sustaining Member is open to any individual, company, or corporation who, by their interest in the land surveying profession, is desirous of supporting the purposes and objectives of this Association. For information regarding Sustaining Membership, contact:

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Seafloor



PUBLICATIONS

2025 publication pre-orders are being accepted now.

- [2025 CLSA Annual Publication pre-Orders](#)

ARTICLE & PHOTO SUBMISSIONS FOR CALIFORNIA SURVEYOR MAGAZINE

Do you have a photo from your field work that would make a great magazine cover? Do you have an idea for an article or have you written an article that you'd like us to consider including in the next issue? Please send your submissions and ideas to CLSA Headquarters,

clsa@californiasurveyors.org

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The Education Foundation was
established in 1993 and is
committed to supporting land
surveying students and programs.
Last year almost \$50,000 in
scholarship aid was provided to
land surveying students. Your
monetary and surveying equipment
donations are appreciated! [CLICK
HERE](#) to learn more about the
Education Foundation.



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