



CLSA
CALIFORNIA LAND SURVEYORS
ASSOCIATION

eNewsletter

NOVEMBER 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Joseph Padilla, PLS
President, CLSA

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

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November President's Letter

Greetings Fellow Surveyors,

On November 1, 2025, we had our final Board of Directors meeting of the year. At that board meeting, the Board of Directors voted to award Paul Lamoreaux with the Paul W. Lamoreaux Distinguished Service Award for CLSA 60th Anniversary. Paul has given almost 60 years of service to the Association as an officer, a president, and a director. Paul will be presented the award at CLSA's 60th Anniversary Dinner in Las Vegas for the 2026 Western Survey Conference on Friday March 20, 2025. Additional information to follow.

At the board meeting we established our 2026 budget for CLSA. We also made the decision to switch our July 2026 board meeting to a virtual meeting and our November meeting to an in-person/virtual hybrid meeting. With these changes we will not have to go through the hassle of trying to book rooms during the State Fair and will make it easier to discuss changes to the budget.

Our first meeting of the year (February 7, 2026) will be an in-person/virtual hybrid meeting. I hope to see more directors from across the state attend in person, as we

will install CLSA's new Executive Officers. This will be a great opportunity for new directors to meet and greet well-seasoned directors.

Speaking of awards, now is the time to submit your nomination forms to CLSA Central Office with your nominations for Chapter of the Year, Member of the Year, Chapter Newsletter, Chapter Website, and Photo of the Year. All nomination forms are located on our State Website under the "Awards" tab under the "About" tab.

Finally, be sure to mark your calendars with these important dates:

- December 31, 2025 | Deadline for all award nominations;
- January 01, 2026 | Chapter reports for all Chapters are due;
- February 07, 2026 | Board of Directors Meeting;
- March 18-21, 2026 | 2026 Western Regional Survey Conference;
 - February 24, 2026 | Hotel Info: Horseshoe Las Vegas booking cutoff date

Joseph Padilla, PLS

2025 CLSA President

WHERE IN CALIFORNIA IS THIS?



Try to identify the location of this month's photo. The photographer calls this one "Me and My Dinosaur" because of the cloud formation. I admit, this one stumped me. Please describe how you identified the site. Submit your answer and/or your photo of a special location for use in a future CLSA eNews to: [Rob McMillan](#)



The last issue's **Where IN CA** photo showed the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church on Lake Street in Altadena, California. The location was correctly identified by John Canby: "I attended 8 a.m. mass there for many years. A beautiful church inside and out, designed by Wallace Neff. Many treasures in Altadena were lost this year, but fortunately St. Elizabeth's survived."

Shelby H. Griggs, PLS was also correct, saying: "Some of these are easy with tools available these days, others take some effort, and some are nearly impossible unless you have actually been to the location in person. I do enjoy the chase though."

Rosalyn Zambrana also found it: "I found this through Google Lens... I haven't been there, but I learned a lot on this search."

And the Masked Geographer as usual identified the correct location, saying: "Google Images, search 'Catholic Church California, bell tower.' Clicked images, scrolled a few, and found in Google Earth."

Another anonymous photo-sleuth said: “Don’t put me on the list...I cheated and used Google Lens.”

SURVEYING IN THE NEWS

2026 CLSA MEMBERSHIP – A GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR SURVEYORS

"'Tis the season" to renew your CLSA membership! Now is the time to renew, join, or rejoin CLSA to support all the work CLSA does to enhance and advance our profession. Also, reach out to your coworkers and colleagues to encourage them to join CLSA. Be sure you are a member of both the local Chapter and the state association.

[RENEW MEMBERSHIP](#)

Western Regional Survey Conference - March 18-21, 2026

We are pleased to announce that the Alaska Society Of Professional Land Surveyors (ASPLS), Arizona Professional Land Surveyors (APLS), California Land Surveyors Association (CLSA), Nevada Association of Land Surveyors (NALS), New Mexico Professional Surveyors (NMPS), Utah Council of Land Surveyors (UCLS), Professional Land Surveyors of Wyoming (PLSW) and Western Federation of Professional Surveyors (WFPS) will be hosting a [joint Conference in Las Vegas on March 18-21, 2026.](#)

Check out the links below for information on registration, sponsorship and exhibiting, and hotel booking.

[Conference Registration](#)

[Sponsorship and Exhibitor Opportunities](#)

SAFETY REMINDER – DAYLIGHT IS GETTING SHORTER

Be aware of your surroundings and drive defensively. As we enter the holiday season, the days are getting shorter, and inclement weather is likely, so plan field work accordingly, ensure your vehicle lights and windshield wipers are working properly, and do not cross flooded roadways. Also remember that people tend to be more hurried in their day-to-day activities.



DESERT CHAPTER HONORS VETS - MARKS REBAR LOCATIONS FOR FIELDS OF VALOR

Earlier this month, the CLSA Desert Chapter joined the local community to transform Patriot Park in Cathedral City, CA, into a forest of American flags as a tribute to military veterans. This year, our surveyors helped set up the hardware for military families to hang flags honoring the service members in their family and community.

According to Chuck Harris, “We round up a group of local surveyors, along with any family members we can get to help. Usually 6 to 8 of us in all. Our role is to spray paint dots at a 5 foot grid along the west side of the park. We use poles with 100 cables with fishing weights every 5 feet, provided to us by the veterans that used to do it. We lay off 100 foot grids,

strapping the first gridline in at the ole 100' by 141.41 diagonal to square it up. Once we layout the overall grids we move along every 5 feet and spray the paint dots. This year they increased the count from 2000 to **3000** as they added an area for service dogs in the detention basin on the north end. Before COVID, we were doing **6,000** dots filling the whole park but now they limit it to the "modern war" with a small area for the World War vets. The service dog area is new this year." Per Doug Redlin: "Original year was 2010."

"Later in the week other volunteers pound in rebar at all the paint dots, then during the ceremony itself family members place the flags on poles over the rebar. The service members name is on a card attached to the flag pole. All day long a speaker reads off the names of the service members, their age, their home city, and the war they served in. Last year I was there in time for the bugle to play taps as they do every day that week. Pretty cool."

CORRECTION AND OVERDUE CONGRATULATIONS!

BLAKE KERBS, PLS

Promoted to to Vice President of JRN ALTA Professionals.

Apologies and thanks to Jim Dickey, who caught the mistake and was erroneously identified as JRN ALTA's new VP. I would like to say I did that on purpose to see if anyone reads this section, but I simply failed to revise the name when recycling the document.

QUICK CONGRATULATIONS:

CONNIE BARRETT, PLS

New Senior Project Manager on the Psomas OC Survey Team.

ERIC WOJCIECHOWSKI

Field Assistant at Becker and Miyamoto, Inc. - Going from CAD Drafting to Field Surveying - Congratulations! Welcome to the great outdoors!

DARCY SHUNK

Started new position as Regional Director of Sales – CHC Navigation.

REB MATTERI, PLS, PART 107

Starting a new position as North Bay Survey Section Manager at Hogan Land Services, Inc.

GEORGE NYSTROM, PLS

Starting a new position as Professional Land Surveyor at Albion Surveys Inc

BRIAN CHRISTENSEN, PLS, PART 107

Starting a new position as Principal Land Surveyor at Gen3 Geomatics!

AMANDA JONES, PLS (AZ, CA, OR & now UT), PART 107

Adds: Professional Land Surveyor from Utah Division of Professional Licensing!

If we missed recognizing anyone, please email RobPLSCA@Gmail.com for inclusion next month.

SAN DIEGO CLSA LS EXAM PREP CLASS STARTS DECEMBER 4th, 2025

The Executive Committee and Caltrans District 11 are excited to announce the 2025-2026 edition of a long-lasting tradition that aims to prepare the next generation of surveyors for licensure.

This year's edition of the LS Exam Review course will be available in a hybrid format, allowing future surveyors from across California and beyond to learn from our collection of experts. For those who register, a MS Teams link will be provided. For those in the San Diego area, it is encouraged to attend in person at the Caltrans District 11 office (4050 Taylor Street, San Diego, CA 92110). Our speakers always appreciate your attendance.

Meetings for the course run every Thursday between 6:30 PM and 9:00 PM from December 4 to December 18, 2025. There is a break for the holiday season, then the meetings resume on

the same schedule starting January 8, 2026. The final day of the course is March 26, in time for the CA PLS Exam.

The LS Exam Review course is the largest fundraiser for the San Diego Chapter. It takes a considerable amount of volunteer time to coordinate, host, and present this review session every year. We would not be remiss without thanking our presenters for their time and knowledge. The fee schedule for this course runs as follows:

\$100.00 - San Diego CLSA Member (less than \$7.00 a class)

\$130.00 - Non-San Diego CLSA Member (less than \$9.00 a class)

For Caltrans employees, please contact Rafi Hanna for Employee Pricing Information.

Topics that will be covered include: Introduction to BPELSG, legal descriptions, the CA Subdivision Map Act & PLS Act, public lands, boundary, riparian, photogrammetry & map standards, error analysis, GNSS, GPS, geodesy, California coordinates, construction, and business practices, culminating in a mock exam.

If you believe this program is enhancing your potential for success and wish to make An additional donation, your generosity is greatly appreciated. If you'd like to volunteer to assist with any of the sessions or can help the program in any way, please contact the Executive Committee.

We would like to thank Mike Hank, Raul Moreno, and Rafi Hanna of Caltrans in their efforts in keeping this great resource running through the years.

For any questions about this year's course, please email the Executive Committee at info@sd-surveyors.org.




FRESNO STATE Geomatics Engineering

Trimble

65TH ANNUAL GEOMATICS CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPEN

JANUARY 22 & 23, 2026

RESNICK STUDENT UNION
5244 N JACKSON AVE, FRESNO CA, 93740

GMECONF_CSUF@MAIL.FRESNOSTATE.EDU

WWW.FRESNOSTATEGEOMATICS.COM

REGISTER NOW

Linktree* @GMECONF_CSUF

@SIXTY FIFTH ANNUAL GEOMATICS CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATES! – CHECK WITH YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER IF NOT LISTED:

<https://www.californiasurveyors.org/chapters>

1/22-23/2026

Thur-Fri, CSU Fresno Geomatics Conference,

3/18-21/2026

Wed-Sat, CLSA Joint Conference, Horseshoe Las Vegas: <http://www.plseducation.org/>.

4/3-6/2027

Sat-Tue, CLSA Joint Conference, Silver Legacy, Reno

CALIFORNIA YOUNG SURVEYORS NETWORK

UNWRITTEN RECORDS

INTRODUCING
"ATTITUDE BASED CULTURE
REFORMATION: ABCR"



FRANCISCO FIERRO
SENIOR SURVEY MANAGER, AUTHOR
AECOM



PARKER PHILLIPS, LSIT
REGIONAL DIRECTOR
SAN DIEGO YSN

12:00PM - 1:00PM PACIFIC
DECEMBER 4, 2025
MICROSOFT TEAMS

SIGN UP AT
BIT.LY/UNWRITTENRECORDSFIERRO



COURVILLE OFFERS CALIFORNIA YOUNG SURVEYORS NETWORK (CAYSN) DISCOUNT

Join the California Young Surveyors Network (CA YSN) in celebrating the stories that don't always get shared through our maps. During the **Unwritten Records** live webinars and stream-able podcast episodes, we explore the lived experiences of professionals who've shaped the land surveying community. The CA YSN works to share the stories of all generations of land surveyors before the stories are lost to time.

In just six months, we've interviewed a surveyor posting hundreds of miles of boundary markers in a National Forest, a jack-of-all-trades Local 12 JAC Survey Apprentice Instructor, and the survey manager for San Diego Gas & Electric and the rationale behind their updated geodetic control survey. Coming up this December 4th, 2025, at 12:00PM PT, **Parker Phillips** will have the privilege of hosting **Francisco Fierro**, a seasoned Construction Survey Manager and Culture Change Leader with over four decades of experience managing complex, high-profile projects worldwide. Francisco has led projects like the Hoover Dam Bridge Bypass to LNG mega-projects in Angola and Australia. Beyond his professional work, Francisco is a visionary writer exploring themes of resilience, rhythm, and renewal. His upcoming book, Attitude Based Culture Reformation; ABCR, offers a blueprint for leaders seeking to create workplaces where people thrive; not by enduring dysfunction, but by preserving integrity and purpose.

You may sign up for this live webinar at bit.ly/UnwrittenRecordsFierro. If you can't ever make it to a live event, most conversations will be posted to [Spotify](#) and [YouTube](#) to be available at any time.

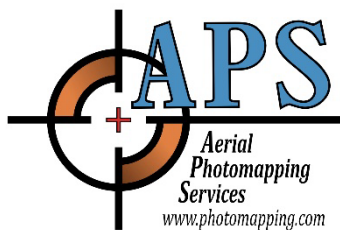
If you are interested in sharing your story with the land surveying community, please visit bit.ly/YourUnwrittenRecord to get in touch with Parker and the rest of the wonderful CA YSN team.

WHAT LAND SURVEYING RELATED SOFTWARE DO YOU USE?

I'm asking about software that is NOT the typical office processing or field data collection stuff. I have been using GeoSetter (<https://geosetter.de/en/main-en/>), which I learned about at the 2025 AZ/NM Conference. It quickly and easily reads photo metadata (if GPS was "on") and exports a KMZ file. Another cool tool used by many field surveyors is Solocator (<https://solocator.com/>). It is a GPS camera app for mobile devices that overlays location, date, time, text, and direction onto photos.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Aerial Photomapping Services Berntsen International, Inc. BizWatt, LLC



Carlson Software

Leica Geosystems HDS

Leja Surveying Corp.



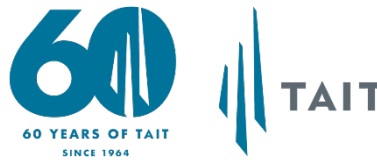
Leica Geosystems, Inc.



Looq AI



Tait & Associates, Inc.



That CAD Girl



Meridian Surveying
Engineering Inc.



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:

2520 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 150 • Sacramento, CA 95833
916-239-4083 • 916-924-7323 Fax • dsa@californiasurveyors.org

Seafloor



PUBLICATIONS

2025 publication orders are being accepted now.

- [2025 CLSA Annual Publication 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

NSPS - STOLEN EQUIPMENT REGISTRY

Reminder - NSPS provides a registry of stolen equipment.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN
MORE](#)

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Offers a \$.07 per page discount and will automatically donate \$.10 per page to CLSA when members download courthouse documents through this website. These instruments include Deeds, Easements, Rights-of-Way, Releases, Liens, etc.



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.



Contact Info:

California Land Surveyors Association

2520 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95833

Phone: (916) 239-4083

Email: info@californiasurveyors.org

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