



SOUTHWEST CONCRETE PAVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Concrete Matters

July 2013

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Welcome to Concrete Matters, the monthly newsletter from the Southwest Concrete Pavement Association. This monthly newsletter contains the latest news and information of interest to the concrete pavement industry in California and Nevada. Please feel free to distribute this newsletter to others who may be interested in long lasting pavements.



California State Gas Tax Rises

The price of gasoline in California was increased by 3.5 cents on July 1. This

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Upcoming Events:

July 11: Caltrans Industry Concrete Products Task Group meeting, Translab, 10 a.m. to noon.

July 17: Caltrans Industry Rock Products Committee meeting, Translab 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
Industry ONLY Rock Products Committee meeting, Granite Construction 9 a.m. to noon.

August 4-7 WASHTO 2013 Annual Meeting, Parc55 Wyndham San Francisco. Register [here](#).

ACPA Webinar

began in late February when the State Board of Equalization (BOE) approved raising the excise tax for gasoline from 36 cents to 39.5 cents a gallon.

This tax increase is the byproduct of state laws, signed by former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2010, that created a new tax structure for gasoline and mandated that the board adjust the state gas excise tax rate by March 1 annually. The so-called "fuel tax swap" laws require the board to lower the sales tax on fuel and raise the excise tax by a corresponding amount to ensure "revenue neutrality."

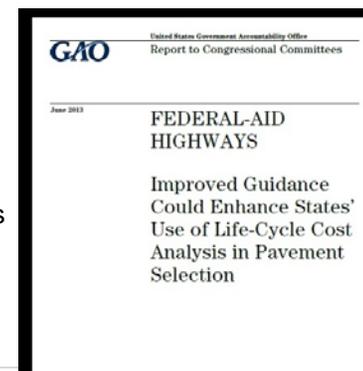
The new tax structure eliminated the general fund portion of the sales and use tax on motor vehicle fuel and raised the excise tax. The change was proposed when the state sales tax rate was reduced in 2010, and the Schwarzenegger administration was looking for ways to free up money to balance the state budget. The swap was designed to ensure that state taxes consumers pay at the pump remain the same as they would have been under the previous tax structure. The current structure is tied to the price of fuel but also involves estimating future gasoline consumption within the state.

According to the BOE, 14.6 billion gallons of gasoline were purchased in-state last year. Based on projections, the latest 3.5-cent increase will generate more than \$500 million from July 1 through June 30, 2014.

California now has the highest state gas tax, with a total of 53.6 cents/gallon. New York has the second highest at 50.5 cents, followed by Connecticut at 49 cents. These rates do not include the federal tax of 18.4 cents/gallon.

Lifecycle Cost Analysis Report Released from GAO

Last year's MAP-21 federal highway bill included a provision that called for the federal Government Accountability Office (GAO) to report on the state of pavement selection in the U.S. SWCPA and many other organizations were interviewed by a team of analysts dispatched across the country for this purpose.



An Owner and Designer's Guide to Using Jointed Precast Concrete Pavement Systems

Thursday, July 11, 2013
(Webinar - SP0813)
Noon to 2 p.m. CDT | 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. EDT | 10 a.m. to noon PDT

Register Online

Special rates are available for government personnel, as well as members of the American Concrete Pavement Association and National Precast Concrete Association. Click [here](#) to register online.



In late June, the GAO released a report which underscored many points the concrete pavement industry has been stressing for years: the process for making pavement decisions must be balanced, include accurate inputs, realistic maintenance schedules, and be geared toward the long-term value for the taxpayer and transportation system user.

On January 15, SWCPA was one of the first organizations to meet with the GAO. The association assembled a panel of experts on pavement selection and lifecycle cost analysis (LCCA) that included representatives from member firms Granite Construction and Cemex, as well as the California Nevada Cement Association. The full report can be found [here](#).

Overall, the report shows some weakness in the process across the states surveyed. Recommendations are provided in the report. By better incorporating best practices in the guidance, FHWA could help states produce credible and accurate cost estimates and make more cost-effective federal-aid highway fund investment decisions.

Transportation Agency Formed in California

A reorganization of state government that eliminates or consolidates dozens of departments and agencies takes full effect July 1. The reconfigured Transportation Agency will include the Department of Motor Vehicles, California Highway Patrol, CalTrans and the California High-Speed Rail Authority. Gov. Brown appointed Brian Kelly to lead the new California Transportation Agency, a cabinet-level office.

Under the changes, the number of state agencies was reduced from 12 to 10, with departments that have related functions housed together. A new Government Operations Agency will centralize contracting, technology, and human resource functions that had been scattered throughout state government.



CA Unveils Certification Site for Inertial Profilers; New pavement smoothness specification will use IRI measurement method



Caltrans has announced the opening of California's first certification and calibration site for inertial profiler devices and technicians. Caltrans is moving to update its pavement smoothness specifications to accommodate new measurement technology. The site is located in Sacramento at the Watt Avenue Light Rail station. The concrete pavement section is jointed plain concrete.

Sincerely,

Craig Hennings
Southwest Concrete Pavement Association



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