



# Newsbreaker

CALIFORNIA SHORE & BEACH PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

April 2005

## President's Message

by David Cannon

In early March, I attended the 2005 ASBPA Coastal Summit (Summit) in Washington D.C. on behalf of CSBPA. I was joined by fellow CSBPA board member, Lesley Ewing, and several CSBPA members (who are also ASBPA board members), including Ann Kulchin (Carlsbad Councilmember), Tom Wilson (Orange County Supervisor), Steve Aceti (CalCoast Executive Director), and Kim Sterrett (Boating & Waterways). The board meeting was timed to coincide with the ASBPA Summit. A summary of these two events is the focus of this President's Message.

The ASBPA Board meeting, held on March 9 at the Washington Court Hotel, addressed two agenda items of particular importance to CSBPA: (i) protection of scholarship funds and (ii) chapter relations (e.g., the relationship between ASBPA and ASBPA chapters). The first agenda item concerned the protection of scholarship funds set up and administered by the chapters. CSBPA's Robert L. Wiegel Scholarship Fund has grown steadily since its inception, and members of the CSBPA Board have become concerned about the security of the funds. Therefore, CSBPA raised the issue with the ASBPA Board last year. The ASBPA Board was in agreement that scholarship funds should be protected from other uses; however, no one knew how to make this happen from a legal standpoint. After researching several options over the last year, the most promising option identified by the CSBPA Board would be to turn the funds over to a nonprofit organization that specializes in administering scholarships. The ASBPA Board voted on this option and agreed to move forward with identification of the best foundation to administer the funds and the future transfer of scholarship funds to that foundation.

The second agenda item addressed by the ASBPA Board was the relationship between ASBPA and its chapters (e.g., CSBPA). Currently, the organizational structure between ASBPA and its chapters is not clearly defined, effectively resulting in chapters that operate independently from ASBPA and vice versa. Adding to the confusion, most of the groups that use the name "Shore and Beach Preservation Association" (for example, Florida, North Carolina, Virginia) have no affiliation at all with ASBPA.

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## Hands Off the Coast, State Panel Warns Feds

### New Commission to Save the Ocean Warns That a U.S. Energy Bill Now Being Written Could Make the Situation Even Worse

By Andy Furillo

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<http://www.sacbee.com/content/news/environment/story/12605392p-13459718c.html>

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Therefore, the CSBPA Board asked the ASBPA Board to develop a policy for guiding the relationship between the parent organization and its chapters. Once the new policy is in place, CSBPA will serve as the "test case." President Simmons requested the formation of a Chapter Relations Committee to prepare the new policy, and I volunteered to serve on the committee, along with Steve Aceti.

Regarding the Summit, I described it last year in two words: "beach nourishment." The theme of this year's Summit was the same. The Bush Administration, through the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), continues to propose restructuring the federal government's involvement in beach nourishment projects. The federal government, working through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), currently covers 65% of the initial and ongoing costs of beach nourishment projects with the local sponsor (e.g., state) covering the remaining 35%. Like last year, OMB

is proposing to change the program such that the USACE would still cover 65% of the initial beach nourishment event; however, ongoing beach nourishment costs would have to be covered entirely by the local sponsor. Similar to last year, there were representatives from USACE and OMB at the Summit so both positions on this issue were represented. In addition, representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration attended this year's Summit to express their concerns regarding the impacts of beach nourishment on the marine environment.

I will be working with the ASBPA Board over the next year to make sure that coastal issues of importance to California (e.g., shoreline preservation, ecosystem restoration, public access, and coastal water quality) are incorporated into the ASBPA mission. As always, I welcome your comments so please feel free to contact me at [david.cannon@everestconsultants.com](mailto:david.cannon@everestconsultants.com).

## Marine Research Funds Awarded

*From Steve Aceti's CalCoast Update, March 31, 2005*

Researchers at 11 campuses and marine laboratories throughout California have been awarded funds from California Sea Grant for 14 new research projects beginning in 2005. These projects include topics in fisheries management, aquaculture, coastal processes, new marine products, and human impacts on coastal resources. Five of the projects focus on developing scientific data to aid the state in implementing California's Marine Life Protection Act of 1999



and mandated fishery management plans. They are funded by a grant from the California Department of Fish and Game. For more information, contact Marsha Gear, Communications Director, California Sea Grant, 858-534-0581, [mgear@ucsd.edu](mailto:mgear@ucsd.edu).

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July issue deadline: June 27  
October issue deadline: Sept. 26

## Tsunami Workshop

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issues. The problem of public education concerning hazards, preparedness, and proper response is complicated and tied up with social, political, cultural, and of course, funding matters.

As is often the case, the scientific and engineering issues are relatively simple compared to the societal ones. But, like in the cause of coastal storm and flooding awareness, our technical contributions can save lives and property. On behalf of CSBPA, I thank the Seismic Safety Commission for taking another step toward defining tsunami hazards in California with this important workshop. CSBPA directors Lesley Ewing, Susan Brodeur, and Phyllis Griffman also attended.



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For information on becoming a member of CSBPA, please visit [www.asbpa.org/membership.html](http://www.asbpa.org/membership.html).

## Bush Nominates New EPA Administrator

*From Steve Aceti's CalCoast Update, March 22, 2005*

President Bush has nominated career scientist Stephen Johnson as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. If Johnson, 53, is confirmed, as is expected, he would become the first professional scientist to manage EPA. Johnson, who has been with the agency for 24 years and risen through the ranks, is being touted as someone who will balance environmental concerns with economic interests. Environmental advocates said Johnson has a substantial amount of good will but would need to prove he can keep politics out of the agency's scientific and regulatory activities. Former EPA Administrator, Christine Whitman, resigned because of such interference.

Johnson would succeed former Utah Governor Mike Leavitt, who last month became head of the Health and Human Services Department. Johnson would take the reins of an 18,000-employee agency with an \$8 billion budget.

# Flood of Interest in Seismic Safety Commission Tsunami Workshop

*By Dr. Ron*

The California Seismic Safety Commission, under the able leadership of Chair Lucy Jones and Executive Director Dick McCarthy, hosted a full-day workshop on tsunami hazards on 15 March 2005 as part of their regular meeting in San Pedro, CA. Interest was high in this timely subject, but chairs were in short supply, as waves of attendees surged into the meeting room.

The workshop was organized into six technical, informational, and educational program parts: Tsunami Risk to California, Proposed Expansion of the Pacific Tsunami Warning System, Tsunami Mitigation, Tsunami Public Education and Outreach, Public Comments, and discussion of the Tsunami Mitigation Program within the California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan. Fifteen speakers held forth, including representatives from universities, non-profit organizations, and local, state, and federal agencies (see <http://www.seismic.ca.gov>).

Travelogue presentations by Dr. Jose Borrero of USC, Martin Eskigian of the State Lands Commission, and Peter Yin representing the Port of Los Angeles showed graphic photo examples of the devastation in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, and Somalia wreaked by the 26 December 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean. These scientists and engineers had visited the sites and were especially interested in charting and documenting the inundation and infrastructure damages caused by the event. The video of large tanker ships hundreds of feet long and under full power swirling and pounding around inside harbors like toy boats in a bathtub was hair-raising.

CSBPA's own Orville Magoon presented an interesting and eclectic view

of past tsunami damage along the California coast. Especially interesting were the historical pictures and lessons learned from the devastation at Crescent City caused by the Alaska earthquake in 1964.

My co-author, Dr. Hany Elwany, and I were invited to talk about the coastal processes associated with tsunami runup. Our main point was that the same tectonic processes that make the California coast hazardous also make it so beautiful, and therefore so attractive. California exists on the boundary of the Pacific and North American plates, and exhibits the classic features of a collision coast: Young, active uplifted cliff and barrier spit topography with a narrow continental shelf, and a shallow, sloping bedrock terrace mostly covered with a thin veneer of beach sand. The sinuous form of the right-lateral San Andreas Fault system and its many splinters gives rise to headlands like Marin, Palos Verdes, Mt. Soledad in La Jolla, and Tijuana where aseismic and co-seismic uplift is necessary for the plates to move past each other. On the other side, extension basins form bays like those at San Francisco and San Diego.

State Geologist Dr. Mike Reichle showed where tsunamis that can affect California originate. There are basically two sources: local and remote. The remote ones are all the familiar areas around the Pacific Rim, including the Aleutians and South America. Locally, by far the most hazardous source is associated with the Cascadia Subduction Zone in the far northern reaches of the state, and including Oregon and Washington. Less obvious, and less likely sources exist just offshore of southern California, mainly along the San Clemente fault system. Tsunamis from afar give plenty of time

for warning, since the Pacific Ocean has a tsunami detection and warning system operated by NOAA. Dr. Eddie Bernard, Director of the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, described the existing system, which integrates seismometers, earthquake source modeling, deep-water tsunami detection using "tsunameter" buoys, and a web-based warning network. Warnings can be issued within 15 minutes flat after an earthquake. Such a system may have saved countless lives in the Indian Ocean, assuming that word could have been communicated to isolated areas, and that people would have heeded them and known how to react.

Locally generated tsunamis, either in northern or southern California present a totally different problem, since the waves will arrive at the coast within minutes of the earthquake that generated them. The earthquake would be the only possible warning. The best advice if you are in a coastal area and feel strong ground shaking, is to pick yourself up off the floor and head calmly but quickly up hill away from the coast. Do not be tempted to explore that suddenly really, really wide exposed part of the beach! A tsunami first wave can arrive either as an up rush or as a drawdown!

Dr. Borrero also showed examples of tsunami inundation zone maps that are being developed as part of a state-funded project to delineate this hazard along the California coast. If you live or work along the coast, this information is for you! The San Diego region maps were the first released and should be publicly available soon.

Most of the remainder of the workshop was devoted to educational

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# Hands Off the Coast, State Panel Warns Feds

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