



## Legislative Affairs

40 bills currently under consideration by the California Legislature were considered by the CLSA Legislative Committee at its April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

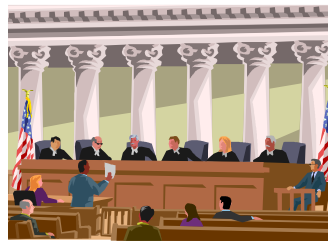
Each bill reviewed is placed into 1 of 8 categories, which determine what level of action we take on behalf of the CLSA for each. The categories are:

**Drop:** If a bill has for some reason made it onto our list of bills to review, but is found to not relate sufficiently to the practice of land surveying, it is dropped from the list altogether for any future consideration. This often happens when a bill starts out with provisions that do or potentially could affect land surveyors in their practice, but later, though legislative amendments, lose any connection to our practice.

**Oppose Unless Amended:** A bill that, on whole, other than some objectionable provision (s) neither helps nor hinders surveyors in their practice. In this case, the Legislative Committee suggests amending language (or deletion of offending provisions) to the sponsoring legislator or to a committee considering the bill. If the bill

is not amended to the CLSA's satisfaction, our lobbyist is sent to testify against the bill.

**Oppose:** A bill that at its core is detrimental to the practice of land surveying is opposed. In this case, the Legislative Committee feels strongly enough about the bill that our lobbyist is sent to convey our



opposition to the bill through legislative testimony.

**Not Favor:** A bill that is generally detrimental to the practice of land surveying. Our lobbyist is directed to send official correspondence to appropriate legislators conveying our opposition to the bill, but is not sent to testify before any legislative committees.

**Watch:** A bill that contains provisions that may affect the practice of land surveying either in a positive or negative manner, depending upon how and if those provisions are amended. A bill in this category remains on the

review list for possible future action by the Legislative Committee.

**Favor:** A bill that is generally beneficial to the practice of land surveying. Our lobbyist is directed to send official correspondence to appropriate legislators conveying our support for the bill, but is not sent to testify before any legislative committees.

**Support:** A bill that is beneficial to the practice of land surveying. Our lobbyist is directed to send official correspondence to appropriate legislators conveying our support for the bill, and the Legislative Committee feels that the bill is important enough to send our lobbyist to testify before the legislature.

**Support with Amendment:** A bill that is beneficial to the practice of land surveying, but could be improved by the addition of amending language and/or the removal of other language that may be detrimental. Our lobbyist is directed to send official correspondence to appropriate legislators conveying our support for the bill, and the Legislative Committee feels that the bill is important

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Leg Report	1
LS Exam	2
Letters	4
Minutes	6
Habitat	7
Contact	8
Game	8



## Why does it take so long to grade the LS exam?

The California State Specific LS Exam is a complex exam, and the grading process used is a complex, but proven method of grading essay type exams, which results in a fair and consistent score for each exam. Think about training home plate umpires to call balls and strikes... Dead center over the plate and waist high? Strike! One-hopper in front of the plate, or behind the batter into the backstop? Ball! Simple enough, right? The tough calls are the ones very close to the strike zone, or in the case of the LS exam, very close to, but not exactly the correct answer. What gets credit, what does not?

For a more detailed explanation of the entire LS exam process, see Cal Surveyor Issue #153:

<http://www.californiasurveyors.org/files/calsurveyor/CalSurv153.pdf>

### Enjoy it while it lasts...

It is a funny statement, but it is often said at the most delicate of times. For instance, in May the weather is a very delicate balance of luck. Currently, we enjoy it knowing that it will not last.

Our articles are much the same this month. A unique balance of a variety of pastimes. I hope that you enjoy the offerings this month.

Next month will bring us some new

“warming” topics to enjoy. If you have an article burning to be shared, just email it to your friendly editor at: [focalpointeditor@gmail.com](mailto:focalpointeditor@gmail.com)



## May Meeting Information

Thursday, May 1- Steve's Pizza  
El Dorado Hills

Guest Speaker- Vendor Night

5:00 - 6:00 relaxation/attitude adjustment

6:00 - 7:00 business meeting and dinner

7:00 - 8:30 guest speaker

# Legislative Report continued

enough to send our lobbyist to testify before the legislature.

Of the bills reviewed on April 5<sup>th</sup> by the Legislative Committee, 3 were dropped, 1 was opposed, 30 are to remain on the watch list, 2 were favored, 2 were supported, 2 were tabled pending more information being provided by our lobbying consultant (by default, a watch position), and 1 that was not on the current list was identified as needing to be considered prior to our June meeting.

Three bills would, among other things, extend the life of any Tentative Map that is current on 1/1/2009 by another 24 months. The Legislative Committee supported or favored efforts to extend the life of Tentative Maps.

In what was perhaps the only unanimous and likely the shortest vote in the past 3 years, the Legislative Committee voted to *oppose* AB 1925, which would require that state licensing boards provide detailed information about persons licensed under each board's authority to the Franchise Tax Board. The FTB

would then be required (empowered) to suspend the professional license of any licensee that it finds to be delinquent in the payment of income taxes. It was felt by all that the payment of taxes is not a professional issue and that the FTB has no business in the regulation, including the issuance or suspension, of professional licenses. We are licensed for the safety and welfare of the public. Taxes are not a safety or welfare matter.

AB 1978, the bill that seeks to include assembled data within the definition of "computer software", potentially making it legally proprietary data of governments rather than public information, was discussed at some length at our April Chapter meeting, and was also considered by the Legislative Committee. Many of the same arguments, for and against, as were discussed at the Chapter meeting, were brought up in the Legislative Committee discussion. In a close vote, it was decided to *watch* this bill rather than take action at this time. This bill is still fairly early in the legislative process, and the Committee felt that it will likely undergo some

changes in the legislative process. The Legislative Committee may take a stand on this bill at a later date, depending upon the changes, if any, to it.

We took a *favor* position on the proposed constitutional amendment addressing eminent domain reform (ACA 8). Unlike the one we saw on the statewide ballot a few years ago, this one sticks more closely to the core issue.

Other topics of legislation reviewed ranged from the Subdivision Map Act, to governmental fees, to licensing issues. Some bills only propose minor grammatical changes which have no effect on the intent or application of any laws. Some make extensive changes to existing law as it affects other professions, but have little or nothing to do with surveying.

If any member of the Sacramento Chapter is interested in more detail of any of the bills reviewed, contact me at [evan@homesteadsurveying.com](mailto:evan@homesteadsurveying.com).

## MANAGING LIABILITY IN A PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYING PRACTICE

May 3, 2008 - Embassy Suites San Rafael

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

### Registration Prices

CLSA Marin Chapter Member: \$125 Non-Member: \$150 Student: \$50

Make Checks Payable to: Marin Chapter, CLSA

Mail to: Marin Chapter, CLSA c/o David Contreras  
20 Vivian Ct.  
Novato, CA 94947

Price includes seminar, handouts, certificate of completion, refreshments and lunch

## Follow-up letter

Dear Colleagues,

I have received word that Assembly member Solorio has "dropped" AB 1978 from consideration by the Government Organization committee, which effectively kills the bill. His office said that due to "new developments" on the bill, Solorio "has decided to not push it forward," so "it's not going to go anywhere."

This does not mean that the backers of this attempt to limit and confuse the public's right to its governments' data (as guaranteed by the California Public Records Act) would not try to advance their objectives through other means. So, we will stay vigilant, and hope that you will remain responsive, if the need again arises.

Many thanks to those who sent a letter to Asm. Solorio's office expressing opposition to the bill. Undoubtedly, this influenced his decision to withdraw. Thanks, also, to those professional organizations that are in the process of preparing a statement of opposition. Please remain responsive and vigilant.

Grateful appreciation is due to the GIS press (especially, Directions Magazine, GIS Cafe, GeoSpatial Solutions, POB Magazine, GeoPlace, and GIS Monitor) and the main-stream press (Orange County Register and S.F.Bay Guardian) for informing our community about this important issue.

Enjoy the sunshine, and stay alert!

Bruce Joffe

Open Data Consortium

GIS Consultants

P.S. Apologies for any duplications of this email sent.

For information regarding the CLSA Board Meeting held on April 26th, come to our May 1 Sacramento Chapter Meeting!

## CSRC Questionnaire Request

Please take a few moments to complete the questionnaire. The Executive Committee needs your input to perform the needs of the spatial community. Your input provides guidance to the Executive Committee. Please let us know if there are spatial positioning or referencing issues in your areas that needs to be addressed. Project and general information can be obtained from the CSRC web site.

<http://csrc.ucsd.edu/> (Paste in your browser window)

Please forward your comments to:

Ross Carlson PLS,

CSRC Secretary

rosscarlson@cox.net

# CLSA

GALIFORNIA LAND SURVEYORS ASSOCIATION



*In Conjunction with CSRC*

*Presents:*

## *Real-Time Networks*

**Speakers:**

- Bryan Banister, PLS
- Yehuda Bock, Ph.D.
- Greg Helmer, PLS
- Bill Henning, PLS (May 9th Only)
- Marti Ikehara
- Charlie Schwarz, Ph.D. (May 2nd Only)
- Gavin Schrock, PLS

***Two Locations***

Friday, May 2, 2008  
Ayres Hotel & Suites  
Ontario, CA

Friday, May 9th  
Biltmore Hotel & Suites  
Santa Clara, CA



# Minutes by Annette Lockhart



Meeting was opened by President Paul Tonn and introductions were made.

President- Paul Tonn

We have a new website. [www.sac-surveyors.com](http://www.sac-surveyors.com) There was a brief discussion of what links to have on the website. We will provide links to websites of members and corporate sponsors. There was a motion to pay \$20 for the hosting and maintenance of website. It was seconded and passed with one abstention. We are invited to a dinner for Habitat for Humanity on Sunday. Annette will represent the chapter there.

VP-Clayton Guiraud

The next meeting will be at Steve's pizza for vender night next month.

Paul Cuomo will come to speak at our June meeting for travel expenses. There was a brief discussion regarding what we would like him to talk about. There was a motion to pay his travel expenses, not to exceed \$500. The motion passed. That meeting will be at Cattlemen's in Roseville, so that we might obtain a quiet room.

July meeting is July 3. It was decided that Clayton will arrange for a River Cats game on a Friday as our traditional outing for the month. Date to be announced later as plans are solidified.

The meeting in August will be the North Counties for the Annual Saturday BBQ which is a multi-chapter event.

Secretary-Annette Lockhart

Motion to approve the minute; minutes approved as read.

Treasurer- Nick Labedzki

Money has gone in and money has gone out; Over \$10000 in account maximize; \$4000 in Bank of America account. River City account still open but will be closed soon.

Board meeting-Rob McMillan

CLSA Board Meeting in Oakland at the end of the month.

Education- Rob McMillan

Last night for class. Generally, 40 have been in attendance. 28 to take the exam. Mock exam on Saturday. Nick will proctor. There has been good participation and good instructors. It was suggested to have gift cards for instructors. There was a motion for \$50 per session. May be able to get cards from BOA. Motion approved.

Membership no report

Government liaison no report

Practice- Went over chapter charter. Evan got doc from state office with ideas for interaction and committee handling of confidential material. He will try to write articles for Focal Point. They will develop a mission statements for committee. Neal Jones was elected chairman.

# Minutes Continued

Old business

GeoWoodstock –Rob McMillan

He went to meeting. The information for the event is on their website. Idea to establish a monuments outside booth with good coordinates.

LSIT prep course- Rob McMillan

We have books from NCEES but group not too involved yet. Clayton volunteered to start getting it ready. Several chapter are doing these prep courses. Monterey goes over several weeks. Consensus is that it is good to go over several weeks. Chapter would like it to be a review course instead of education. What kind of cost? Cuomo Press will provide a book package. Discussion about the potential candidate pools available. Several are available.

AB 1978- Group discussion

It will be discussed at leg committee this weekend. There is an attorney general's opinion on the matter. Orange County wants their GIS data to be software. Issue was that positions were tied to the revenue. Santa Clara and Orange County have refused to release information on principal. It is a good idea to address these issues. First Amendment Collision is active in this matter. This legislation could affect contractors by redefining surface area files and assessor parcel maps. Last year the recorders tried to keep only digital copies of maps. Might want to consider that paying for the data will help ensure that the data might be better kept up. El Dorado will give you for the whole county for \$120; Most agencies would rather the info be out. Nice to have consistent data across county. Lively discussion on the aspects of the bill. Motion to have the CLSA leg com to review the bill approved with one abstention.

Followed by Speaker: Oscar Jarquin, Chief of the Office of GIS, Department of Transportation.

A new opportunity for participating in a Habitat for Humanity project will be:

Saturday, May 17, 2008 @ APN 266-0212-002 Sacramento County



## Hamming it up

This past month our chapter was honored by the local Habitat for Humanity Chapter with a “Hammie”. In a very nice dinner setting, each organization and business that had a hand in the

success of the local chapter this year were honored. Our chapter was honored for the work that several members did on a record of survey for them.

Our shining star in this

endeavor is Dave Karoly. He took responsible charge for the survey and received an recognition himself for doing a parcel map on his own for them. Habitat is a great part of our community. Thanks to the chapter for taking time to participate in their efforts.

## **CLSA SACRAMENTO - 2008 CHAPTER OFFICERS**

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## **FOCAL POINT ADMINISTRATION**

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The FOCAL POINT is a publication of the Sacramento Area Chapter of the California Land Surveyors Association and is pleased to publish letters from land surveyors and other interested persons on subject matter relevant to the land surveying profession. Please include your name, address and daytime phone number. Views expressed are the opinions of the individual writers and are not necessarily those of CLSA, the Chapter, or the editor. FOCAL POINT accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the information given. Letters may be edited and published in any format. All letters submitted become the property of the Focal Point. Due to space restrictions, FOCAL POINT reserves the right to hold letters for publication at a later date.

**sac-surveyors.com**



## **Guess who... a new feature**



Surveying is a really small community. We had this idea that we could show a picture and have you guess who was in it. Here is our first pic!