



Section Report

Central California Section

October 18, 2006 Meeting

Our Central California Section quarterly meeting was held October 18, 2006 at Grand Occasions in Fresno. The meeting was sponsored by Prism Engineering.

More than 55 members and guests attended.

Business Meeting

Our new section president Gary Mills started the meeting with a short business report.

Technical Session

Our technical session was sponsored by Grant Johnson and Prism Engineering who also provided the raffle prize. www.prismworld.com

Grant Johnson's presentation was on "Roundabouts, a Traffic Operations Perspective"

Modern Roundabouts are more than a traffic calming tool. Sometimes they are a better solution than a traffic signal, from a traffic operations standpoint, or from a capacity standpoint. Traffic signals sometimes depend on the traffic operations of adjacent intersections, and a system of signals is necessary for proper flow of traffic. A modern roundabout on the other hand can sometimes operate as a governing meter to negative traffic flow impacts, and provide needed capacity improvements at the same time. PRISM Engineering conducted several traffic operations studies, with the building of various micro-simulation models in relation to the installation of a modern roundabout at the busiest intersection in the City of Grass Valley, and on one of Caltrans' most challenging on-ramp systems (300 foot weave at base of curve and steep grade) on the Golden Center Freeway. The modern roundabout mitigation was the only solution that Caltrans would accept short of a new interchange.

Grant Johnson began preparing traffic engineering studies and signal designs in 1984. In 1994 he founded SPECTRUM Engineering, which has grown into PRISM Engineering, and has been active in many cities and counties in Northern California providing on-call traffic engineering services to San Joaquin, El dorado and Nevada County. He is a registered Traffic Engineer, has 22 years of experience as such, and was also one of the first recipients of the national title of

Professional Traffic Operations Engineer, or PTOE. He has been involved in numerous traffic operations studies, and is knowledgeable in the use of technical software applications relating to micro-simulation.

Raffle

LaVerne Bitner was the winner of the portable DVD player donated by Grant Johnson and Prism Engineering.

Future Meetings

January 17, 2006 - Visalia

Nazir Lalani

Tort Liability: The Public Agency Perspective, and
Tort Liability: The Civil Engineer's Role as a Witness.

Submitted by;
Mike Bitner – Past President