



The True Value of AGC Membership

The benefits seen and unseen are equally important

If you're reading this magazine as a member of AGC, it means many things. But aside from discounts and exclusive educational programs, members can count on AGC working to address unemployment and legislative issues specific to construction. AGC protects the interests of our members in a way that no one else does.

NEW GREEN CONSTRUCTION PLAN

With its new plan, Building a Green Future, AGC outlined a better way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and cut energy consumption than the costly cap and trade bills. The plan outlines measures designed to stimulate demand for green construction projects, boost infrastructure capacity, and improve building efficiency and green construction practices. Read the plan at www.agc.org/greenfuture.

THE COSTS OF CONGESTION

At a recent media event, AGC showed that traffic congestion costs construction firms of all kinds an estimated \$23 billion yearly in lost productivity and added costs.

AGC continues to meet with our elected leaders on Capitol Hill and remind them of the importance of passing a long-term surface transportation bill. And as co-chair of the Transportation Construction Coalition, AGC is sending a message to Congress that further delays to this important investment in America's infrastructure are hurting employment and jeopardizing economic recovery while putting our country decades behind global competitors.

EFFECTS OF HIGHWAY PAINT SHORTAGE

AGC alerted federal and state officials in May about growing shortages of highway paint, and met with state DOTs and the Federal Highway Administration to make sure the shortages do not cause delays in highway construction projects.

Since highway projects are not technically finished until the lanes are painted, AGC also worked to make sure contractors are not penalized if they finish work but the lanes can't be painted on time.

EMISSIONS FORECASTING IN CALIFORNIA

Since May 2007, AGC has lead the fight against the California Air Resources Board's effort to impose lower standards of emissions from off-road diesel engines already in use. With the help of AGC of California and the San Diego Chapter, and assistance

from chapters nationwide, AGC has worked to persuade CARB to amend its rule and EPA to block its enforcement.

California's effort has national implications - AGC has found that 32 states are likely to use California's costly rule once the Golden state gets the green light to proceed from the EPA. AGC found significant flaws in the emissions data CARB used to create the rule, and CARB has agreed to consider amendments to the rule and further delay enforcement.

EPA REVISES STORMWATER SURVEY, SAVING CONTRACTORS TIME AND MONEY

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is moving forward with its commitment to create a first-time national rule that would set new standards to control stormwater discharges from developed sites. As a result of AGC's advocacy, EPA decided not to require contractors to respond to a lengthy, mandatory survey that will guide future requirements for long-term stormwater control practices.

AGC's work is sure to save the industry time and money, as many members estimated it would have taken a construction firm 120 to 150 hours to complete the EPA survey. As a result of AGC's efforts, EPA correctly determined that general contractors should not be subject to future information-collection requests about post-construction issues.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

AGC fought for many changes to the new health-care reform package that the president signed on March 23. Thanks to active AGC members, we delivered nearly 20,000 letters to Congress to make sure the new law included language fixing a measure that would have excluded construction firms from the small business exemptions in the bill. AGC successfully showed Congress that singling out construction firms was unfair and impractical. AGC's webinar on the effect of reform on member businesses is available online, with additional information related to the bill. Visit www.agc.org/healthcare. ■



STEPHEN SANDHERR
AGC CEO

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LOOKING FOR YOUR JULY/AUGUST CONSTRUCTOR MEMBER DIRECTORY?

The member directory is now online only at directory.agc.org. Search by company name, location or member type, while benefiting from real-time updates and the ability to enhance your own profile online.