



**California/Nevada Section
Bimonthly Update
January 13th 2015
Fifty Fourth Edition**

- * **California AgrAbility preentation at ASABE CA/NV Meeting, February 11, Tulare, CA**
- * **Officer Team Nominations**
- * **Three Middle School FUTURE CITY Competitions, Jan 24, 2015**
- * **Free Ag & Bio PE Exam Review Webinar Series Available December - March**
- * **2015 Hold Big Change for the Quarter Scale Tractor Design Competition**
- * **Forest Management: Effects on Climate Change; N & S CA Society of American Foresters Winter Meeting, Jan 23- 24, SLO, CA**

- * **California AgrAbility preentation at ASABE CA/NV Meeting, February 11, Tulare, CA**

The CalAg Team from UC Davis will be presenting their work in a presentation entitled:

“California AgrAbility: Finding Solutions for California Agricultural Communities”

Prof. Fadi Fatallah, Maria Ceja, and Esmerelda Mandujano, the CalAg Team will tell us about modifications that differently abled agricultural producers and residents have made to the ergonomics of various working situations to maintain productivity and participation in agricultural ventures, turning disabilities into abilities! See the attached flyer and look for a meeting registration announcement imminently!

* **Officer Team Nominations**

Your officer team needs your help. Many of the long standing members of the ASABE CA/NV officer team would like to roll off to pursue other ventures. Some more fresh blood (well, not really blood but energy and enthusiasm) is needed to invigorate the Section and our activities. Please contact Carolyn Jones and Victor Duraj if you are interested in participating. The time commitment is limited to an hour or two every two months and about a day once a year in February.

* **Three Middle School FUTURE CITY Competitions, Jan 24, 2015**

The CA/NV Section of ASABE is lucky to have THREE middle school Future City competitions going in our Section! There are opportunities for ASABE members to assist both in person and remotely. It’s important that ASABE members provide our support because ASABE is a co-chair of National Engineers’ Week (eWeek) 2015!

Region	Regional Coordinator	E-mail	Regional Final	Location
CA (Northern)	Laura Lorenzo	futurecity@pmi-svc.org	1/24/2015, 7am-5pm	California State University Stanislaus, 1 University Circle, Turlock, CA 95382
CA (Southern)	Deborah Orlik	dorlik@wildwood.org	1/24/2015	Wildwood School (Upper/Middle Campus), 11811 Olympic Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90064
NV (Southern)	Pom Jintasawang	pom.jintasawang@swgas.com	1/24/2015	NW Regional Career & Technical Academy, 8200 West Tropical Parkway, LV, NV 89149

Please find details on each individual competition location below but be sure to register as a judge at <http://futurecity.org/register>.

Future City Northern CA - Virtual City Deadline is Saturday 12/20/2014 8PM.

Future City Southern CA - Southern CA is expecting 30-60 teams (max 3 teams/school) to submit an entry. An entry consists of has one SimCity, one essay, one model, two presentations. The model and presentations are judged on the day of the event, January 24th. Those that would like to judge SimCity entries or 1,000 word essays remotely will receive about 4 entries shortly after the December 15th entry deadline and will have just under a month to judge them. Expected judging time is about 1 hour per entry. Those that would like to judge the model and presentations will have to attend the event on January 24th.

Future City Southern NV - Please contact Pom at the email address above for further information.

*** Free Ag & Bio PE Exam Review Webinar Series Available December - March**

To assist in your goal of becoming licensed, ASABE is pleased to bring you a free webinar series designed to help you prepare for the Principles and Practice (PE) Exam in Agricultural and Biological Engineering in the US.

Online sessions will be presented by instructors from across the US. Each two-hour segment will focus on a separate topic, collectively providing basic refreshers on the range of topics addressed by the agricultural and biological engineering PE exam. Fundamental principles will be reviewed and example applications demonstrated in problems similar to those that might appear on the exam next April.

Most webinars will be held Tuesday evenings from December to March. It is assumed that participants have at least a bachelor's degree (or equivalent) in engineering, several years' experience applying engineering principles, and some exposure to most of the topic areas on the exam.

*** 2015 Hold Big Change for the Quarter Scale Tractor Design Competition**

This last June students from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and Modesto Junior College competed against 25 other universities and came back with awards, experience, and determination to do even better in 2015. Cal Poly came home 8th overall and MJC with 11th, Best Appearance, Craftsmanship, and the Sound Level awards. Our California teams are pretty competitive! Both teams' competitive spirits and innovation will serve them well as they take on the new rules for the 2015 competition.

The rules are available at the ASABE website, but let's look at a couple highlights. First, the 16hp engines are no longer allowed, and multiple engine tractors are a thing of the past! In 2015, all tractors will be on a level playing field and will only be allowed to use 1, Briggs & Stratton 31-hp Vanguard Engine. Now, the biggest change for 2015 is the addition of a new event, a Durability Course!

The new Durability Course is a timed event that will require students to put their tractors to the test by towing a weighted cart through a course of bumps and loose soil. The students will not just drive through a course once, but they will have to complete eight laps! This new event is sure to add some excitement in the pits at next year's competition.

If you are interested in learning more about the competition, visit the ASABE Website. The 2015 competition will be held May 28-31, 2015 at the Expo Gardens Fairgrounds in Peoria, IL. Our California teams are already busy working on their tractors and could always use support from sponsors and material donors. If you're interested in helping them out, visit their websites at:

<https://www.sites.google.com/site/polybuiltqs/home> and
<http://www.mjc.edu/instruction/agens/mechanizedag.php>

*** Forest Management: Effects on Climate Change; N & S CA Society of American Foresters Winter Meeting, Jan 23- 24, SLO, CA**

The SAF NorCal/SoCal Winter Meeting deals with forest management and climate change. Specifically, this conference focuses on the ways in which active management of working forests can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build carbon stores. The forestry sector plays an important role in climate change due to its ability to act as a carbon sink or source. Sustainably managed working forests are a key component in climate change mitigation and resilience. Enhancing carbon sinks and reducing carbon emissions are the two major climate mitigation strategies. The major carbon pools within the sector are forests, harvested wood products in use and harvested wood products in landfills. This conference provides a comprehensive view of these climate change mitigation strategies.

Friday will start off with the joint NorCal/SoCal executive committee meeting; which will be held at the UC Cooperative Extension office at 2156 Sierra Way. There is ample parking adjacent to the office and the meeting is open all interested parties. This is an excellent opportunity for students to learn about current forestry issues and see the how they can become involved in their professional organization. After the meeting we will carpool for a field trip to Pacific Coast Lumber in San Luis Obispo. This is a unique experience to learn about a company that is the leader in utilizing "Urban Forestry Wood" both as a source for many of its custom products and as a source of materials for others to use.

Friday evening will be a Forester/Student Social at Pappy McGregor's Pub at 1865 Monterey St., SLO. Appetizers will be provided and a no-host bar plus dinner will be available at additional cost. This will be an informal environment to meet and mentor students about the many opportunities in our profession.

What better place to talk about climate than San Luis Obispo! Come early and enjoy the famous Thursday night farmers market, stroll around the vibrant Cal Poly campus, visit the mission, shop downtown, sip some wine, and of course visit the beach (clam chowder at the Splash Cafe!).

Register at http://www.eventbrite.com/e/norcalso-cal-saf-2015-winter-meeting-tickets-14119195895?utm_campaign=SAF+Summer2014&utm_medium=email&utm_source=SAF+Winter+Meeting+2015+-+2nd+Notice.

- For previous editions of the Update, please visit www.asabecanv.org.
- If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact Carolyn at 707-678-1655x117 or carolyn.jones@ca.usda.gov.
- If you have ideas for Update items or would like to get involved in the leadership team, please let us know.