



# BUILDING TRADES NEWS

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MAY 2015

## ALL-UNION ANAHEIM GROUNDBREAKING

\$200 Million Project Will Generate 1,860 Building Trades Jobs

### INSIDE BUILDING TRADES NEWS

#### 2 OUR JOBS ARE NOT TEMPORARY

Building Trades careers can last 30 years or more

4 TRADES MAKE STRONG  
SHOWING IN WASHINGTON, D.C.  
Telling Congress our priorities  
on fair wages, infrastructure and  
safety

#### 7 PALLADIUM PROJECT STARTS APPROVAL PROCESS

Union members go to City Hall to  
support \$322 million Hollywood  
investment

#### 8 CARSON STADIUM ON FAST TRACK

Now, the NFL needs to make a  
decision

#### 9 INTERVIEW: MAKE A BUILDING TRADES MAJORITY

National Trades President believes  
in changing minds

#### 10 ON THE JOB

All-veterans class begins Iron  
Workers Local 416 apprenticeship

#### 12 FROM THE STATE BUILDING TRADES PRESIDENT

Free trade's legacy is lost jobs and  
slashed incomes

#### 13 PALMDALE-TO-BURBANK TUNNEL PLAN

It may be part of high speed rail  
route

BY ROBERT BUSCEMI

The \$200 million Anaheim Convention Center Expansion Project broke ground April 21 under an all-union Project Labor Agreement between Turner Construction and the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council.

It did so in bold fashion. With an audience of 300 Building Trades union leaders and members, elected officials and Anaheim dignitaries, an excavator wrenched and smashed a two-story chunk of old parking structure to the high-decibel strains of the Rolling Stones' "Start Me Up."

At 1.6 million square feet, the venerable 1967 center was already the West Coast's largest. But while rich in exhibition acreage, it had in recent years lost its competitive edge because it lacked the meeting space that contemporary conventions require.

As a result, it risked losing blockbusters like the NAMM music show.

In response, a coalition composed of the Trades, progressive Councilmembers, business owners and others advocated for bold action. The group weathered lawsuits and overcame opposition to win a years-long battle.

"This convention center and the Resort District are the lifeblood of Ana-



Celebrating (clockwise from top center): Anaheim City Councilmember Jordan Brandman, former Councilmember Gail Eastman, Mayor Pro Tem Lucille Kring, Councilmember Kris Murray and Ernesto Medrano of LA/OC Building Trades.

heim," Ernesto Medrano, Council Representative for Orange County and Anaheim resident, said from the podium. "We must keep them healthy and help them grow."

SEE ANAHEIM PAGE 14

## \$300 MILLION FOR PORT PLA

BY MARK EDWARD NERO

The Middle Harbor Redevelopment Project, one of the largest and most ambitious construction undertakings in the history of the Port of Long Beach, will



Middle Harbor will become one mega-terminal.

continue to be built under a Project Labor Agreement after the port reached a deal with the Building Trades for devel-

opment of the project's next phase. The latest Project Labor Agreement, SEE LONG BEACH PORT PAGE 19

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# OUR JOBS AREN'T TEMPORARY

## We're Here for a Career, Not a One-Shot Paycheck

If you want to insult a construction worker, start talking about "temporary" jobs.

In our world, that word carries a lot of freight, most of it negative.

When someone opposes a project, from high speed rail to a new school, they dismiss the impressive job-creation figures. "Those are just temporary jobs," they say.

And temporary jobs don't count. Opponents think that a skilled construction worker comes out of nowhere, miraculously builds the project and then disappears, never to be seen again. A "temporary" person with temporary importance to the community. A job anyone can do. "You can hire 10,000 people," the CEO of a staffing agency told "USA Today." "When they're done, those 10,000 people just melt away."

About 12 percent of jobs today are held by truly temporary workers. These are freelancers, contract workers and consultants who have no ties to a company or union and usually no health or retirement benefits. They range from a clerk at minimum wage to a professional consultant. (And many of these workers now want to organize unions, since they form a growing part of the US workforce.) Wal-Mart hires workers on a 90-day contract at \$9.45 an hour for a night shift, with no benefits and no promise of further employment. They're called "flexible associates."

### Highly Specialized Skills

I haven't heard such BS since they started calling used cars "pre-owned."

These temporary workers are a world away from the Building Trades.

The Building Trades worker who shows up on site—always early—is highly trained. He or she is in a career that pays full benefits and retirement. He'll work a full day, giving it his best effort. He gets there the next day and does it again, until he works himself out of that job.

When a building's done, it's done. Even the Pyramids had an end date.

But that doesn't mean our jobs—our careers—are temporary. They're project-based.

If you want a comparison, try the movie industry. A highly trained film crew starts up, for anywhere from a month to a year, on a location or a studio set. When the filming stops, that crew is done. And then it's time for the next project. That includes everyone from the star to set builders.

Again, these are projects that demand highly specialized skills. The workers are usually organized into unions. And with union representation, project-based careers can offer health benefits and retirement security.

Our members put in an average of 30 years in their Building Trades careers. While there were some cathedrals in Europe whose construction spanned hundreds of years, generally, a project lasts for less time than that. The shortest projects we take on may go for just



**BY RON MILLER**  
Executive Secretary

a week or two. High speed rail will take 15 years for the longest link, broken up into several phases. The Wilshire Grand Center, the tallest building west of the Mississippi, started demolition in late 2012, and the opening is planned for 2017.

### Many Links in the Chain of a Career

So, in a 30-year career, a Building Trades worker may be on dozens of work sites. But none of them is "temporary." They are all links in the chain of a career. No one is in

for the short term. We don't "just melt away."

And at the same time, the economic effect of these "temporary" jobs is astounding. A dollar spent in construction generates several more dollars in the economy: money spent on a mortgage or rent, a car, clothes for the kids and college tuition.

Not to mention the benefits to a community of a new light rail line, a traffic-saving tunnel, a mall, performing arts center, a stadium, housing complexes, power plants and new roads.

Yes, we get a lot done in our "temporary" jobs. And that's why we fight for each and every one we get. When a project comes to an end, we want our contractors to be ready with the next one. The 90-day worker at Wal-Mart has no one in his or her corner to make sure there will be work after that initial period. We make a deal with our Building Trades mem-

**“WITH A UNION,  
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AND  
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bers: Keep your skills sharp and be the best on the worksite that you can be. And we will fight to make sure there is a job for you throughout your career.

The "permanent" job, as we traditionally know it, is changing radically. Did you know that the average American "permanent" worker changes jobs every three to four years? We have members who may well be on a specific project longer than that.

Fewer private employers offer benefits.

**SEE CAREER PAGE 12**

## BUILDING TRADES NEWS

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# TRADES MAKE STRONG SHOWING IN DC

Legislative Conference Brings Leaders Straight Into Halls of Congress

Photos by Jenifer Morris



State Building Trades President Robbie Hunter and delegation meet Sen. Barbara Boxer in the historic Senate Reception Room.



U.S. Rep. Xavier Becerra and Council Executive Secretary Ron Miller.

BY ANNE-MARIE OTEY

Roughly 3,000 delegates and guests gathered at the Washington Hilton April 19-22 for the 60th annual North America's Building Trades Unions Legislative Con-

ference to advocate for good jobs and reinvestment in American infrastructure.

The delegates included several dozen from local unions of the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council.

North America's Building Trades Unions is an alliance of 14 Trades that collectively represent more than 3 million skilled craftsmen and women in the U.S. and Canada.

Attendees heard from prominent elected officials, business leaders and Trades partners. They took part in policy panels, walked an expo hall filled with union-related businesses and lobbied Capitol Hill for Building Trades priorities.

The union-staffed Hilton has hosted the conference yearly since opening in 1965 and just mounted a plaque to commemorate that relationship. The storied hotel is currently adding a new wing, so this year's conference was also an active union construction site.

National Building Trades President Sean McGarvey encouraged leaders in his keynote speech to create "Building Trades majorities at all levels of government," a point emphasized by the "Bridge the Gap" cartoon, a 19th-century-style banner depicting a Democratic donkey and a Republican elephant that hung behind the podium.

"We can still be solid and proud trade union leaders even when we are working both sides of the political aisle," McGarvey said.

## Now Is the Time for Action

At the annual State Building and Construction Trades Council lunch April 21, President Robbie Hunter said that now is the time for action in California. "Over the next four years we can move big things in this state," Hunter said.

"We have an absolutely brilliant governor in Jerry Brown. And when the Building Trades and the people in this room get legislation to him, with the support of the people we've gotten to Sacramento, he will give us a fair shake. But he will say, 'Explain to me what this does to help working people. Explain to me what this will do to help the economy.'"

Hunter praised the efforts of more than 100 union representatives at the lunch. "The individual Trades that get involved in city council, who support and find good people. The school boards. Those who show up to county boards of supervisors

SEE CONGRESS PAGE 16

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Newly elected U.S. Rep. Norma Torres meets LA and Orange County representatives.



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# DOUBLE MARRIOTT HOTEL WINS 13TH ANNUAL Q AWARD

All-Union Project Helped Jumpstart Downtown Building Boom

The Alliance for Quality Construction's 2015 Q Award for excellence in union craftsmanship will go to the 22-story Courtyard Marriott and Residence Inn, which opened in July 2014 at the corner of Olympic Boulevard and Francisco Street in the LA Live entertainment center of downtown Los Angeles.

The \$172 million double Marriott broke ground in the summer of 2012. The project employed about 800 Building Trades union members under an all-union Project Labor Agreement between developers American Life and Williams & Dame and the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council. Union pension funds investor Washington Capital Management supplied \$20 million in funding.

"We're thrilled to have a hotel win the Q Award for the first time," said AQC chairwoman Pam Ackrich. "The concept of two hotels in one is innovative. And the Marriotts take it many steps further with their impressive lobby and amenities."

The Marriott Courtyard offers 175 traditional rooms, while the Marriott Residence Inn boasts 218 extended-stay units. The edifice is the hospitality chain's first such dual-branded high-rise on the West Coast.

The award ceremony and luncheon will be held Tuesday, June 16 at the hotel. Ackrich said the annual luncheon is a highlight for contractors, elected officials and Building Trades leaders. "This is a great opportunity for our contractors. They do the finest work



The double Marriott stands at Olympic Boulevard and Francisco Street.

for our customers. As Los Angeles thrives as a tourist destination, what better way to greet our visitors than with this union-built showcase?"

Council Executive Secretary Ron Miller said the enterprise was a catalyst for downtown LA's construction boom and plays a vital role in attracting convention business. "This project served as a beacon for skilled labor through a dark time, when out-of-work lists soared. The Trades drove the economy and set the agenda by investing in ourselves. What had been a parking lot is now fueling LA's resurgence."

## Reward for Hard Work

Gregory Steinhauer, president of developer American Life Inc., said the skill that went into the structure speaks for itself. "We are extremely honored to be selected for this award. It is a testament to the dedication, quality and teamwork that the union labor workforce brought to the job on a daily basis. Every one of them should be proud of what they have accomplished."

"I'm glad all the hard work we did is being rewarded," said John Messick, senior project manager for subcontractor Rosendin Electric. "The Marriott was one of the first



The site, shown during construction, was a parking lot.

projects in this current construction surge downtown, and it isn't your average hotel. We built something that's pretty cool and very trendy. And we made it come in on time, in fact early. You always get the highest quality and consistency with union, with no labor shortages."

Cory Carlson, President and CEO of union pension fund investor Washington Capital Management, said the job went off without a hitch. "This project went up on time and on budget, even though it involved some complicated construction and innovative technology. The unions really delivered."

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## ALL-UNION PALLADIUM RESIDENCES START CITY HALL APPROVAL PATH

Trades Turn Out to Boost \$322 Million Project

Photos by Ty Washington



The towers will be built to complement the historic Hollywood Palladium.



Rick Vazquez of UA Local 709 Sprinkler Fitters.



Justin Westby of Laborers Local 300.

BY BEIGE LUCIANO-ADAMS

Building Trades members made an early show of support at City Hall April 15 for the Palladium Residences, a unique project aim-

ing to combine preservation of Hollywood's historic event venue with two 30-story residential towers.

At the project's planning hearing, the first step in a multi-prong process, Los Angeles/

Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council Executive Secretary Ron Miller testified for a "high quality project" that he said will spur revitalization.

"Hollywood is a symbol of Los Angeles,

so as we develop it it's important to keep an eye on what's good for the neighborhood, and that's the Palladium Residences," Miller said.

Built in 1940, the art deco Palladium dance

**SEE PALLADIUM PAGE 18**



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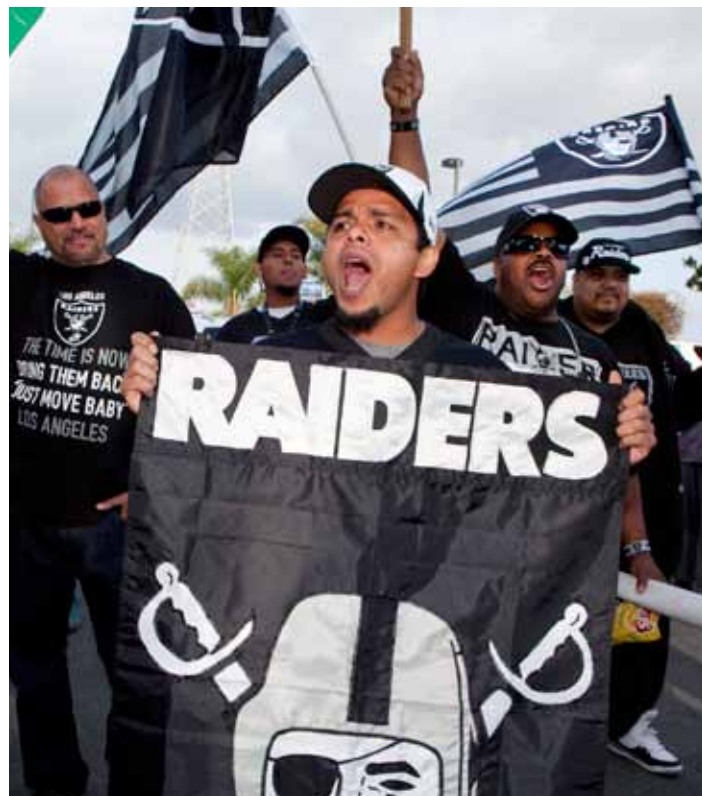
# CARSON PUTS ALL-UNION STADIUM ON FAST TRACK

No Need for Citywide Vote After Council Approves \$1.7 Billion Project

Photos by Kenneth Johansson



Residents and football fans, including Trades members, pack the City Council meeting.



Raiders fans stand up for their team.

BY MARK EDWARD NERO

By unanimous vote, and in front of a chamber filled with hundreds of excited football fans, the Carson City Council April 22 approved a plan to build a sports stadium in the city that could potentially

bring two NFL teams and thousands of jobs.

The vote means that the City of Carson has decided to move forward on the project without putting it on a citywide ballot in August. The stadium will be built if the National Football League chooses Carson

as a site for team relocation.

The matter reached the City Council just two months after the entity backing the stadium effort, Carson2gether, launched a petition drive to gather enough signatures to put the project to a vote. In about a week, signature gatherers managed to get more than 15,200 Carson residents who are registered voters to sign, nearly twice the number needed.

“This has been an extremely fast process. It’s been six weeks from the announcement of the project to us standing here in front of the City Council, which is incredible,” Carson2gether campaign manager Erin Lehane said.

Under the plan, the proposed stadium would house two NFL teams that are currently based in other cities: the Oakland Raiders and San Diego Chargers. Each franchise has been trying for years to get a new stadium built in the teams’ home city, but the municipalities have been unwilling to put public money toward new venues.

## No Need for Public Funding

The \$1.7 billion Carson stadium, however, would be privately financed, thereby eliminating the need for public funding, according to both teams. The 157-acre site would house a 65,000-seat stadium.

The stadium will be built under an all-union Project Labor Agreement with the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council.

Dozens of Building Trades local union members who live in the area were on hand during the Council meeting to show their support.

“Not only will the stadium affect us in a great way by bringing great revenue to the city, it’ll also provide union jobs and keep the project under budget,” said Eunice Langford, an apprentice with IBEW Local 11 and Carson resident. “It’ll keep jobs local for us.”

Julian Jimenez, a business agent with Laborers Local 1309 and lifelong Carson resident, said he’s excited about the stadium



Carson resident Julian Jimenez of Laborers Local 1309.

um because he’s never had the opportunity to participate in a construction project in his hometown.

Jimenez, who said he’s a fan of both the Chargers and Raiders, also stated that the stadium project is about more than just football.

“It means jobs,” he said. “These are careers that we are producing here.”

The vote to move forward with the stadium came shortly after the Council approved the ratification of petition signatures that were gathered by supporters of the project. It took just over a week to gather the vast majority of the signatures, according to Mike Haynes, a Southern California native who played for the Raiders during the 1980s.

“I’d like to tell you it was a lot of hard work and real tough to do. But the truth it, it wasn’t at all,” Haynes said. “People were so excited about the possibility of a stadium here in Carson, they sought out our signature gatherers in order to help us make history.”

In his remarks before the 3-0 vote, Councilman Elito Santarina noted that a study commissioned by the city determined that a stadium could boost city rev-

**SEE FOOTBALL PAGE 13**

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# NATIONAL TRADES LEADER CALLS FOR PRO-WORKER COALITIONS

McGarvey Works Both Sides of the Aisle to Create a 'Building Trades Majority'

BY ANNE-MARIE OTEY

Building Trades National President Sean McGarvey sat down with "Building Trades News" April 21 at the annual North America's Building Trades Unions Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. The national Building Trades are the advocate in Washington for the 14 Building Trades and their local affiliates throughout the United States and Canada.

**BTN:** You said in your keynote that Republicans control 31 state legislatures, and Democrats only 11. What is the "Building Trades majority," where we urge legislators to take a stand on Building Trades issues, regardless of their party membership?

**SM:** With the fluidity of politics in our country, there are no super-majorities in the U.S. Congress. It's important that we represent our members from every nook and cranny in the country.

In lots of places in this country, Democrats have a hard time competing. And you have reasonable Republicans that represent their constituents well. We've always looked to build those relationships and those majorities. In many places in the country, we as the state and local Building Trades have done a good job making sure they have Building Trades majorities, Democrats and Republicans, to move the issues that are important to our member-

ship and our industries and their contractors in their city councils, county committees and state legislatures.

And in other places we haven't done as good a job. We're dominated by other portions of the labor movement which quite honestly are under attack. And we support them. But on the other hand we find ourselves being collateral damage, where we've tried to be as bipartisan as we could over the years but were overshadowed. Because people don't understand the nuance in the labor movement, and in particular how construction unions work. And lots of the things they rail against with other unions actually don't exist in our collective bargaining.

**BTN:** How do we differ?

**SM:** We don't have paid holidays, sick days or bereavement time. You don't get paid for your birthday, for Christmas day. There's no seniority. We take care of our own health care and our pension. We invest in and run our own training. And lots of policy makers don't know that.

It's important that we educate them on how our collective bargaining works. We compete for every job every day, and if we're not competitive, we don't get the job. And if we don't get the job, people don't work. So when they see our structure, and how we compete, with some of them it opens their eyes. That makes it easier for them to support issues, whether



Photo courtesy of North America's Building Trades Unions

"In today's world, you win with your briefcase, not your brawn," President McGarvey tells delegates.

it's Project Labor Agreements or prevailing wages or apprenticeship readiness programs, and using public investment in infrastructure to help communities of color, women and veterans get on a path to a successful middle-class life through the Trades.

When you get them to our training schools and they see everything we do, it makes it easier to build that Building Trades majority. A pragmatic legislator, regardless of party, will recognize our value and find a way to work with us.

**BTN:** The 2016 presidential race is coming up. Who has a shot at the national Building Trades endorsement?

**SM:** We don't think on the Republican side at this point there's any serious presidential timber that has announced. But there's some others who are thinking about it who have some of the qualities that we believe it will take to be the leader of the free world, and they could get some things done. So we'll look for the opportunity to engage with them, hear their plans and if they are going to actually run for the

SEE MCGARVEY PAGE 17

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# IRON WORKERS LOCAL 416 GIVES A HAND UP TO VETERANS

Shouldering Rebar in the Morning Sun, Prospects Get Ready to Start Apprenticeships



The new apprentices, including Jaime Torres, center, learning to use a cutting torch, said military training helped them take on challenges.

BY ROBERT BUSCEMI

Fifteen military veterans showed off their skills at the Iron Workers Apprenticeship Training Facility in La Palma April 15 in hopes of impressing the 10 contractors on hand to recruit them.

They succeeded. They had been training for almost two weeks both in and out of the classroom through the Helmets to Hardhats Iron Worker Industry Preparation Program, designed by the District Council of Iron Workers of the State of California and Vicinity and run in partnership with Cerritos College.

The hopefuls shouldered 15-foot-long, 75-pound lengths of rebar in the morning sun, trotting them 50 yards from one end of the school's parking lot to the other. They then ran back for another load, sometimes slapping hands as they passed each other. Contractors evaluated the talent in an NFL-style "scouting combine." The enthusiastic pre-apprentices moved equipment, tied rebar and built beam cages on horses, all to strict safety standards.

They accomplished their mission: Every trainee got invited by a contractor to a job site to start their careers as Local 416 apprentices.

"I salute Iron Workers Local 416 and

their efforts to help more veterans find a career that will help them live their American Dream," said Darrell Roberts, executive director of Helmets to Hardhats. "Iron Workers Local 416 has always supported our veterans and Helmets to Hardhats. This boot camp is another example of their passion and patriotism."

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the jobless rate for post-9/11 veterans is 7.2 percent, higher than the general population's 5.5 percent. The good news is that, also according to the BLS, job growth for Iron Workers is projected to outpace other professions and grow a full 22 percent by 2022.

"It makes me proud," said Local 416 business agent and Marine veteran Richard Byrd, who coordinated the program. "This is our way of giving back to the guys who help protect our country, plus a great method to use the military training to enhance our workforce."

## Work Picture Is Bright

"I'm impressed with all of them," Byrd said as he watched them run their paces. "Every one of these guys started out barely able to carry the stuff properly, and by Monday morning they'll be job-ready. And not just a job—a career. As Trades-

men, they'll have good benefits and a good retirement, be able to take care of a family and buy a home."

Byrd said the work picture looks bright for these apprentices and for Local 416. "Our union is building actively right now. All of LA is building. We now have about 2,600 members, and I've been told we'll need as many as 800 more."

The Building Trades know exactly how to capitalize on a veteran's skills, according to Ricardo Reyes, veterans' employment coordinator for the LA County Federation of Labor AFL-CIO and the United Way of Greater LA and a veteran himself from the Marines.

"What the Building Trades offer veterans is unprecedented," said Reyes, who visited many of the training days. "Most of our veterans have spouses, kids, responsibilities and bills, so something that's entry level and low wage just isn't realistic. And going back to school full-time isn't either."

"But the Building Trades offer something no other program can: direct-entry programs that give vets a leg up, to put them right onto a work site and place them on fast tracks to being journeymen."

Russ Voss, general superintendent for contractor Pacific Steel Group, said he liked the talent. "I see some very valid

candidates here. I'm pleased. I believe that veterans have the right mentality for what we do."

CMC Rebar assistant superintendent Phillip Babbitt agreed that the military is ideal training. "These guys know how to dig deep, to get after it even when they're tired, when they feel like quitting. They keep moving."

Army veteran Patrick Walker, 23, said, "The sense of camaraderie is just incredible. We already have this good rapport after just a week and a half."

Local 416 instructor Bradly Huth said that watching their esprit de corps has been satisfying. "We've tried to instill in them to take care of each other," Huth said. "And they've come together as a brotherhood really well."

"Military training teaches dedication and commitment," Integrity Rebar Placers field superintendent Adam Garcia said. "To strive to be your best. As a veteran myself with the Marines, I think we should be reaching out even more than we do."

Instructor Frankie Jimenez said that he doesn't go easy on students. "They've been working extremely hard. This work is physically demanding, but like anything else, if you set your mind to it you can accomplish it."





Instructor Brad Huth, left, teaches Oscar Solis.



The art of iron work shows on the training center's facade in La Palma.



"I'm all for getting vets working," says **Todd Moore**, field superintendent for contractor Next Century Rebar. "I believe strongly in that. Military teaches endurance, a good work ethic and respect. These guys don't quit, ever. And the pride in union work is second to none, and the safety too. Military training and union apprenticeship is quite a match."



Andrew Wiesenbach runs with a horse.

Photos by  
**KENNETH JOHANSSON**



**Connor Hambly**, 20, Army Reserve.

"This program is one of the toughest things I've ever done, besides the military. But punking rebar is fun. I don't know what it is about it, but it's fun. I love it. The union offers a pension and an annuity. They pay really well, and it's gonna set me up for the rest of my life. This program really prepares you for going out in the field and makes you a better apprentice right off the bat, so it lowers the attrition rate for contractors when people show up for work."



**Andrew Wiesenbach**, 27, Navy.

"They're preparing us for what it'll be like in the field. You've got to continuously work hard and put dedication into it, or you're not gonna make it. It'll make you or break you. We vets are already a brotherhood, and we're kicking ass together. We're gonna kick ass in the field too, and hopefully make the union stronger."



"We encourage every Trade and industry to put veterans first," says Local 416 Business Manager Hart Keeble.



**Roy Parker**, 35, Navy.

"After punking these bars around, I'm starting to grow to like it. It's fun. Mental fortitude, never quit, stay the course—they're clichés, but they're true. The union trains you, and it's a merit-based program. In order to get your pay raise, you have to come to school, work hard and pass your classes. You have to prove you're worth it. Those measures ensure that the contractors are getting their money's worth. But the benefits that come along with it are great. To any veteran out there, I say if you're willing to work hard, check out the Iron Workers."



**Alex Laguerre**, 24, Marines.

"It was hard at first to lift the rebar, but then it gets easier. The military gets you in the right mindset for getting the job done right. You work through the pain."



Veteran Richard Byrd of Local 416 coordinated the program.



# REAL LEGACY OF FREE TRADE: LOST JOBS AND SLASHED INCOMES

No Reason to Repeat 1994's Mistake in 2015



BY ROBBIE HUNTER

President, State Building Trades Council

Former Michigan Democratic Governor Jennifer Granholm likes to tell the story of her tenacious and determined but ultimately unsuccessful effort a decade ago to try to keep a company called Electrolux from relocating its refrigerator manufacturing plant from the town of Greenville, Michigan, to Mexico to exploit cheaper labor.

Governor Granholm offered an incredibly generous package of tax breaks and government assistance, even promising to construct a publicly funded new factory for the company if it would just stay and keep its jobs.

She recalls how the company's executives shook their heads, rolled their eyes and chuckled before instantly declining the offer. "There is nothing you can do," they told her, "to compensate for the fact that we are able to pay \$1.57 an hour in Mexico." Also, no workers' compensation, no Medicare, no state or federal taxes.

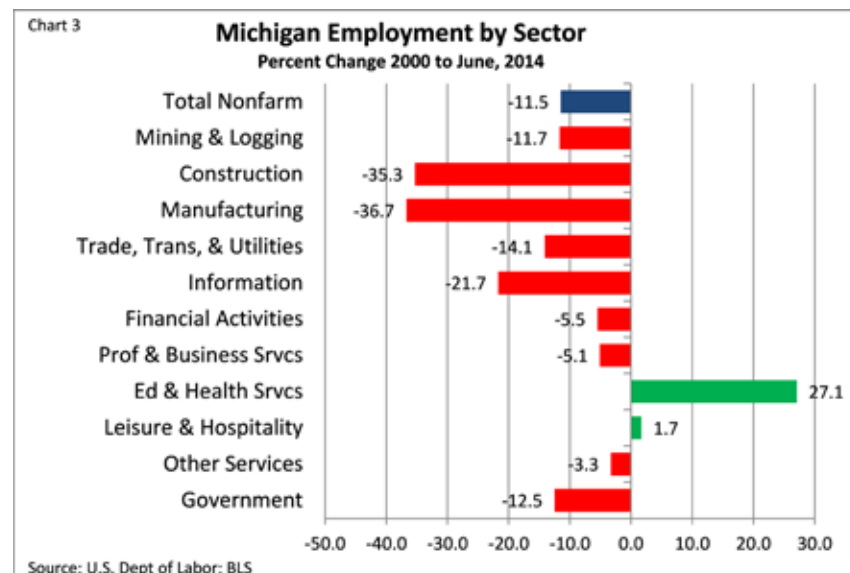
That's hard to beat.

That ability, in turn, was enabled by the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, which provided unprecedented new rights and market access for foreign manufacturers and investors, as governments agreed to roll back and simply quit enforcing their rules in the name of encouraging foreign trade.

Referring to NAFTA and the similarly named Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), Governor Granholm recalled: "That's when I started to say, NAFTA and CAFTA have given us the shaft!"

It's a clever, funny line about a circumstance that was not at all funny. Greenville's refrigerator factory closed, putting 3,000 people in a town of 8,000 out of work all at once. Those workers had typically earned around \$20 per hour, enough to enable homeownership and a pleasant middle-class life style in a small Midwestern town. But no more. Those jobs and incomes, and that life style, were gone.

Greenville had been home to refrigerator manufacturing since the 19th century, even



After NAFTA, Michigan lost thousands of manufacturing and construction jobs.

proclaiming itself the "Refrigerator Capital of the World," providing good livelihoods to the town's families over many generations, 114 years of workers giving it everything they had to build a company that was competitive and profitable.

That all ended after NAFTA.

It was a Democratic president, Bill Clinton, who ultimately did big businesses' bidding, pushing hard for NAFTA and getting it enacted in 1994.

Now, incredibly, another Democratic President, Barack Obama, who has a generally favorable record on issues important to working families, is trying to expand NAFTA's provisions to the entire Pacific Rim through the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). He is further trying to do it by a process called "fast track," which provides for an expedited vote with minimal public exposure or input, without debate or amendments.

NAFTA, which has over 21 years destroyed much of America's industrial manufacturing capacity, applied to the United States, Canada and Mexico. TPP would extend those provisions to 12 nations on the Pacific Rim in Asia and the Americas.

Just how bad an idea is that? The nonprofit consumer advocacy organization Public Citizen in 2014 released a detailed study of NAFTA's 20-year legacy, and what it suggests about the effects TPP would have.

It is fascinating and disturbing reading. You can find it here: <http://www.citizen.org/documents/NAFTA-at-20.pdf>.

In short, none of the economic benefits promised by NAFTA advocates occurred, the study found. "Instead, millions have suffered job loss, wage stagnation, and economic instability from NAFTA." Addition-

ally, environmental, health and consumer protection provisions have been rolled back.

The greatest direct effect of NAFTA was to give businesses a new incentive to relocate to low-wage areas, throwing middle-class Americans overboard to allow for greedily exploiting impoverished people in Mexico, as Governor Granholm in Michigan painfully learned.

## New Jobs Pay Low Wages

Those displaced American manufacturing workers who could find new jobs generally got them in the low-skill, low-wage service sectors, creating a new glut of workers that drove down those already poor wages even further. By enabling companies to threaten to move to poorer countries, NAFTA also gave employers new clout in bargaining with workers, pushing down wages still more.

Now President Obama, in partnership with the Republican Party, is trying to spread the disastrous policies of NAFTA to the Pacific Rim by giving TPP the "fast track" treatment. It is a terrible idea that would have tragic consequences for working families.

As Public Citizen's report concluded: NAFTA's two-decade legacy of tumult and hardship for millions of people in North America is the evidence needed to hasten the downfall of the attempt to expand the NAFTA model via Fast Track and the TPP. "If so, it would constitute a unique benefit of an otherwise damaging deal."

In other words, the only good thing to come from NAFTA may be that it inspires the momentum to stop an even worse deal for American workers. And that's what the Trans-Pacific Partnership would be.



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## CAREER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Fewer are truly invested in keeping a worker on the job for the length of a career. More are involved in outsourcing—sending work overseas. And in addition, they now lay off American workers and bring in foreign workers under contract to work here.

## Don't Play Games With Our Jobs

How is that enriching our community?

How can a politician or project opponent stand up and say that our jobs don't matter? We've got one of the best deals going for a hard-working man or woman who wants to make the best of themselves. It shocks me that our jobs are political footballs in the game-playing that often accompanies development decisions.

So let's put the word "temporary" in its place and make it clear: We're project-based. We'll win as many great projects as we can, and make them part of Building Trades careers.



## 11TH ANNUAL SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT SET FOR JULY 18



Action at home plate during the 2014 tournament.

Saturday, July 18, is the date for the 11th annual Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building Trades softball tournament.

It will start at 9 am at Big League Dreams, 2100 S. Azusa Ave. in West Covina. The park opens at 7 am.

The blind draw for the matchups will be done July 8, so all teams must contact organizer Richard Vasquez of IBEW Local 441 before that day.

The popular day attracts teams from more than a dozen Building Trades local unions. "Building Trades News" photographs each team. Last year, 16 teams competed. UA Local 250 took the trophy with a win over Iron Workers Local 433. In the tourney's lower bracket, SMART Sheet Metal Local 105's A team came out ahead of IUPAT DC 36 Painters.

Interested teams may contact IBEW Local 441 at (714) 939-3131.

## FOOTBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

enue by \$168 million over 40 years.

"This is an investment in our children and our children's children," he said.

Carson Mayor Albert Robles also spoke in favor of the project, saying there are two things Carson needs: rain and football.

"Hopefully today we took care of that, because football is coming to Carson," he said as cheers erupted in the Council chambers, followed by a chant of "Bring Them Back!," a reference to the former Los Angeles Raiders.

Despite the progress in Carson, however, both the Raiders' and Chargers' owners have said they want to work out stadium deals with their current home cities and that the Carson plan is, for now, a fallback option.

Although the teams are free to file relo-



IBEW Local 11 apprentice and Carson resident Eunice Langford.

cation paperwork with the NFL later this year, the earliest the league has said it will consider such requests for the following football season is January 2016.

A competing plan to build a stadium in the city of Inglewood is undergoing a similar process there, with the prospective tenant being the St. Louis Rams, which were the Los Angeles Rams for 48 years until moving in 1994. It too will be built all-union.



Raiders fan Johnny Ace.

## HIGH SPEED RAIL PLANS BURBANK-TO-PALMDALE LINK



The \$68 billion California High Speed Rail broke ground in January under a Project Labor Agreement with the Building Trades. Now the HSR Authority will host several public meetings to gather comment on how best to connect the Palmdale Transportation Center in the Antelope Valley to the Burbank Airport Station in the San Fernando Valley. The plans may include a tunnel.

"These meetings will give the latest information on this vital section of the system, and our next steps going forward," said authority spokeswoman Rachel Kesting. "We're looking at proposed alignments along two corridors, and we will have maps and answer questions. It's an exciting project—an all-electric train that will reduce greenhouse emissions."

Trades members who live in each community are encouraged to attend. For more information, please go to [www.hsr.ca.gov](http://www.hsr.ca.gov)

### SYLMAR

Wednesday, May 27  
5-8 pm  
Olive Vista Middle School

### SAN FERNANDO

Thursday, May 28  
5-8 pm  
Las Palmas Park Gym

### FOOTHILL COMMUNITIES

Saturday, May 30  
9:30 am-12:30 pm  
Verdugo Hills High School, Tujunga

### SANTA CLARITA VALLEY

Monday, June 1  
5-8 pm  
Santa Clarita Activities Center

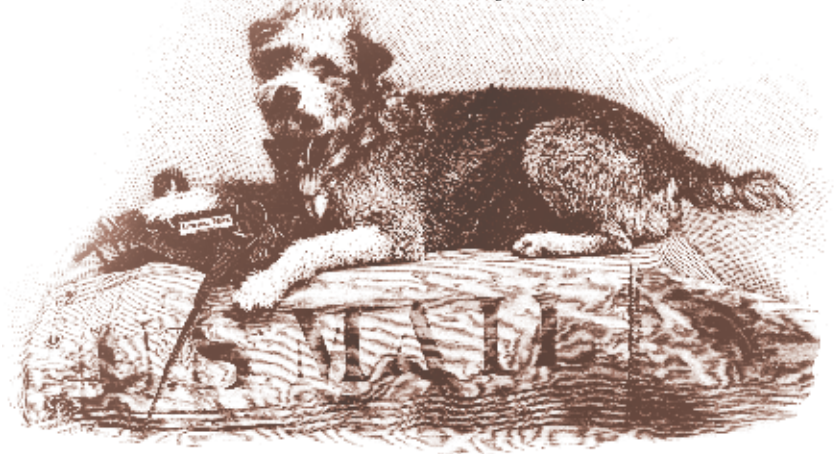
### PALMDALE

Tuesday, June 2  
5-8 pm  
Chimbole Cultural Center

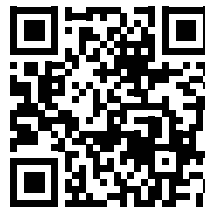
### ACTON/AGUA DULCE

Saturday, June 6  
9:30 am-12:30 pm  
High Desert School, Acton

Image courtesy of the National Postal Museum



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This scruffy mutt was the mascot of the United States Postal Service from 1888-1897. During that time he traveled over 140,000 miles, by rail, guarding the US mail across the country. What was his name?

☐ Sparky

☐ Owney

☐ Josiah

☐ Marky

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Anaheim Mayor Pro Tem Lucille Kring said the project will create Trades careers. “The Trades do such a good job on their apprenticeship programs. It will be wonderful to have people back to work after this terrible recession.”

The expansion will create a state-of-the-art, flexible two-level 200,000 foot hall with 25-foot ceilings, a climate-controlled connector bridge and 1,350 new parking spaces. The new facility, to open in spring 2017, will generate 1,860 jobs for skilled Building Trades workers, then 2,000 permanent jobs on completion at restaurants, hotels and elsewhere. The city anticipates \$9 million yearly in new tax revenue.

Getting Out of the Recession

Medrano’s predecessor and fellow Anaheim resident Jim Adams was praised widely at the event, in speeches and among the crowd. “It’s a good feeling,” Adams said. “The crafts worked hard for a long time to make this happen, and thank goodness it’s finally here.”

David Henderson, business representative for Painters and Allied Trades District Council 36, said the ACC is his local’s bread and butter. “Our membership works in this facility daily. So this is something we’ve been wanting a long time. And we’re always glad to see other Trades get work.”

Richard Samaniego, Business Manager for IBEW Local 441, said the PLA will power local revenue. “Local hires reinvest in their city,” Samaniego ex-



An excavator and Building Trades members demolish part of the building.

plained. “That’s a huge selling point.”

John O’Neill of IBEW Local 441 said the Trades will shine. “When people see how quickly the job turns around under a PLA, under budget, they’ll be impressed.”

Former Anaheim Councilmember Gail Eastman, who helped lead the effort for the center, called the day historic. “This is an exciting moment for all

those Trades people who’ve been without work,” she said. “They’re finally getting out of the recession.”

Dave Belanger, project safety manager for general contractor Turner Construction, said the day had special meaning for him. “I’ve lived in Anaheim since 1962,” he explained. “Quality is unsurpassed with union. They build America. Everybody here knows what to do, and

in a safe manner.”

Turner vice president Gary Birdsall said he expects big things from the Trades. “This project will set the gold standard for West Coast convention centers. It will bring hundreds of jobs to the region, and that’s a real benefit to the community.”

Laborers Local 652 Business Manager Adrian Esparza said he hopes

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Photos by Mark Savage

14





Retired Council representative Jim Adams, center, with IBEW Local 441 Business Manager Richard Samaniego, right, and Local 441 representative John O'Neill.



Adrian Esparza, Business Manager of Laborers Local 652.



Dave Henderson, representative of IUPAT Local 831.

this groundbreaking inspires others. “They’re getting quality workmanship from skilled, qualified workers,” he said. “The future looks bright. The economy is coming back, not just for Laborers but for all the crafts. It’s exciting.”

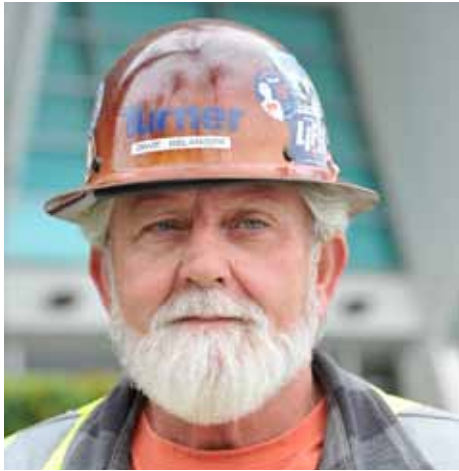
**A Win for Everyone**

Business Manager for UA Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 582 Glen Nolte said Anaheim chose to embrace the future. “You’re either left behind, or you’re a visionary. And today, Anaheim is visionary,” he said. “This PLA epitomizes what labor, management and the community can do together.”

Jay Burress, President and CEO of the Anaheim Orange County Visitor and Convention Bureau, announced that demand is high. “We have already booked 14 groups into the new space,” he said.



Glen Nolte, Business Manager of UA Local 582.



Dave Belanger, Turner Construction.



Jay Burress, president and CEO of the Anaheim/Orange County Visitor & Convention Bureau.

“We said it would deliver, and it’s going to—starting day one.”

Field Representative for Painters and Allied Trades District Council 36 Doug Robbins called the expansion a win for

everyone. “Hopefully we’ll show surrounding cities the benefits of a PLA. When people see the results of local hire, in terms of jobs and tax revenue, they’ll understand the benefits.”



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U.S. Rep Xavier Becerra, third from left in second row, meets the LA/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council delegation.

# CONGRESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

and put good elected officials into Sacramento, that have been making political donations and walking the precincts. And above all, the Trades that worked hard for Governor Brown’s re-election.”

Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building Trades Council Executive Secretary Ron Miller said the Building Trades system works. “We want to bring people together, to create good local jobs through Project Labor Agreements,” Miller said. “And we share plenty with the Republican side of

the aisle. Our members for the most part work for private contractors, and due to the skill level and training they bring, that helps make our contractors competitive, while they pay good wages and benefits.”

**Apprenticeship Is Patriotic**

On April 22, Building Trades union leaders joined Miller to meet members of Congress and stress Building Trades goals.

“Whatever we in California can do to help, we have to do,” said Heat & Frost Insulators Local 5 Business Manager Tom Gutierrez. “People across the country are looking at us as a blueprint and asking how they can follow what we did.”

Cement Masons Local 500 Business

Manager Jaime Barton said that investing in apprenticeship is patriotic. “In the big scheme, we as Americans need to come together shoulder-to-shoulder and create solutions to the problems that impact us all. I know what apprenticeships have done for me, for my family and others, so I can sit down and have a conversation, and when I’m done, they’ll at least view the Trades in a new light.”

U.S. Congressman Xavier Becerra also spoke at the State Building Trades lunch.

“We’ve got to make sure that everyone who works hard receives a prevailing wage for the efforts they’ve given, for the training they’ve gotten. That’s why Project Labor Agreements are so important.”

Loretta Sanchez, Representative from the 46th District in Orange County and Congresswoman since 1997, said she is proud of her union heritage. “I’m on labor’s side,” she said. “I congratulate all the Building Trades who fought for that PLA in Long Beach recently.”

Marriott Courtyard/Residence Inn at LA Live

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U.S. Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard talks about economic issues.



U.S. Rep. Janice Hahn walks into her Trades meeting.



U.S. Rep. Alan Lowenthal reads the latest “Building Trades News.”



office. But right now there's no announced candidate that we would even consider having a conversation with, because of what they've done already in their careers and their public pronouncements on their positions.

And on the Democratic side we have one announced candidate, and that candidate has an extremely, extremely favorable view among all the Building Trades.

## BTN: How do we move transportation from what's become a political issue back to a more neutral issue of infrastructure?

**SM:** We're watching, across the globe, an economy that's investing vast amounts of money into its infrastructure and is quickly approaching us as the world's undeniable economic superpower. The Building Trades are starting to get the business community really engaged in this, because at the end of the day, you need the ability to move your goods and services through surface transportation, air rail, you name it.

You have to have good bridges and roads, and you have to have commute times that make sense. We have to get our coalition big enough where people are more afraid of the retribution from this gigantic alignment of the country, as opposed to some very vocal, scary outside interest who threatens them with a difficult primary or a difficult ad campaign if they try to move the country's infrastructure forward by finding a way to fund it.

When we get to 2016, in that presidential race, a huge centerpiece of both campaigns is going to be massive infrastructure investment. Because neither the Republican nor Democratic nominee will want to see the economic superpower status of the United States, on their watch, go to China.

## BTN: What objections do you hear? They don't want to raise taxes, or they don't want to spend the money?

**SM:** I don't think it's about spending the money, because if you watch the way they spend money in the U.S. Congress, it's never about that.

They are afraid, on the Republican side, of challenges from well-funded outside groups, if they raise the gas tax or come up with some other funding mechanism that causes fees or something else to increase. It's just fear at this point. There's not one caveman or cavewoman in the U.S. Congress that thinks they can live in a cave and go and scrounge for their food and build a fire with a stick to heat themselves. We are headed that way, but they know that. It's just right now they're less afraid of that than they are of the outside influences.

## BTN: What's your response when legislators say Building Trades wages are too high?

**SM:** You cannot stand on the floor of a city council, a county government, state legislature or the U.S. Congress and rail against income inequality out of one side of your mouth and on the other side of your mouth say well, you guys and you girls make too much money. The facts of the matter are, if you look at what wage inflation has been over the last 30 years, we're so far behind where we should be



**U.S. Rep. Loretta Sanchez, center, visits with (l-r) Keith Harkey of Iron Workers Local 433, Patty Waggoner of Amalgamated Bank, Bill Waggoner, Business Manager of Operating Engineers Local 12, Piedmont Brown of Iron Workers Local 433, Doug Mangione of IBEW Local 441 and Mitch Ponce of Iron Workers Local 433.**

at this point that it's laughable that they could even make that statement.

California's state prevailing wage law is probably the best in the country. But I can take you to other places where we have a prevailing wage law, or the federal Davis-Bacon act, and I can show you where we've got classification in wages for crafts that are below the national minimum wage. So when a Republican legislator or a Democrat wants to argue with me, I'm gonna say, 'OK, so you want an electrician coming in your house working for \$6.26 an hour? You want 'em wiring your house?'

We try to educate them with the data. And to some, it's an ideological thing and a political thing and you're never going to convince them. But our goal has always been, and always will be, to make sure we make 218 votes in the United States Congress to maintain the Davis-Bacon Act, and we work hard at that every day.

## BTN: In California we have a Building Trades majority in our state legislature. But we don't have that in every city council or school board, and that's true nationwide. What tools can you give us to make our case when we sit down with elected officials?

**SM:** It's marrying the policy to the politics, being a good explainer of all the things that we do. They see that we agree on more than we disagree on.

Large portions of a county's or city's budget have to do with taking care of the folks that aren't as far up the economic ladder. And there's resources that need to be used to make sure that they maintain some standard.

Well, we explain that through apprenticeship readiness programs, and tying public construction investment dollars to apprenticeship training and apprenticeship programs, we can help alleviate pressure in this part of the budget.

We're for economic development. Sensible economic development, you know, being sensitive to what development does to the quality of life and making sure we have the infrastructure in place—roads, bridges, schools—to take care of it.

Now some ideologues we're never going to convince, right? And I think another part of it is being willing to say that when we agree on these core issues, you're the type of people, regardless of party, that earn our trust. We know you're advocating on issues that are important to our members, and we can support you, and we actually do that.

Folks say to me, there are places in this country where a Democrat's never going to get elected. Well, you can keep banging your head against the wall and keep think-

ing you're going to run the new young county commissioner against somebody in the district, or you can say how do we work with the existing person? Or how do we find one of our members, or somebody who's a Republican, and say 'Hey, let's see if you can be that moderate voice that we can work with?'

**“YOUR GOVERNOR IS A BUILDING TRADES GUY. HE IS VERY PRAGMATIC AND WANTS WIN-WIN-WINS.”**

I think the education process is important. And of course California already does it very well and very successfully. I had a great dinner with your governor a few

weeks ago, and the governor is a Building Trades guy.

He certainly views it through the prism we view it: very pragmatic, very practical, need to have win-win-wins. It was encouraging to hear that. And some of the themes that I discussed in my speech, I discussed with the governor that night. And he offered to be a consigliere and find ways to help us, because he really thinks the Building Trades model is a model that can grow and be successful over the next 100 years. To hear that from a guy like Jerry Brown, that's very encouraging.

## BTN: We're reaching out to many community members to bring them into our apprenticeship. What's your message to them?

**SM:** I would like to say welcome. I want you to have the greatest experience of your life learning from some highly skilled craftspeople who are dedicated to passing on their tradition and their craft. And if you are diligent in learning your craft and making sure that you follow instruction, and you do what is required of you as far as pulling your own weight, that the world's your oyster.

That the opportunities for whatever you want to do through your craft, through your Trade, whether it's being a journeyperson, a foreman, a general foreman, a superintendent, an entrepreneur or a leader in your local union, that you take advantage of all that, and that you be a proud and forceful advocate to others throughout your community. And listen to those who say, the Building Trades is something that you really should explore because it's been great for me, it's been great for my family, it could be great for you. So come on along and let me show you what we're all about.

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# PALLADIUM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

and music hall featured Frank Sinatra on its opening night, and underwent a year-long, multimillion-dollar renovation in 2007.

That improvement will now be coupled with an ambitious development on the facility's surface parking lots.

The Palladium Residences is a project from Crescent Heights, the same group of principals currently building the all-union 10 Thousand project in Century City with funding from Ullico.

"Crescent Heights has a strong track record," Miller said. "Unlike some developers that come to build in the city, Crescent Heights has reached out to the community."

Adam Tartakovsky, vice president with Crescent Heights, said his team had dozens of meetings and presentations with local organizations and individuals in the area, resulting in more than 2,600 official neighborhood supporters.

"We went door-to-door to every neighbor, resident and business," Tartakovsky said. "We're not just getting support but incorporating feedback into the design."

The project is estimated to generate \$10 million in annual tax revenue and around 3,000 construction jobs, all of which will be union, according to Crescent Heights.

The project includes two different plans for the site—one with up to 731 residences, and another that would include a 250-room hotel as well as up to 598 apartments.

"We're very proud to have the support of local construction Trades," Tartakovsky said. "We use all union, on every project, even when we're not required to."

Iron Workers Local 433 Business Manager

Mike Silvey urged officials to move the project forward.

"The Iron Workers strongly endorse this," Silvey said. "You get two wins with Palladium Residences: new housing, with public open space, for Hollywood; and a commitment to this historic theater."

Shomari Davis, business representative for IBEW Local 11, recalled attending concerts at the Palladium, and commended Crescent Heights for presenting an environmentally sound plan.

## Next Step Is Commission Vote

"It's really important that they're seeking LEED Silver certification. For an Electrician, that means they're going to be doing the latest in energy-efficient fixtures and building methods."

For Justin Westby, a fourth-period apprentice with Laborers Local 300, seeing members in action at City Hall was a first.

"I think every union member should be here if possible. They need to hear these things and see what's going on," Westby said.

Now finishing his apprenticeship, Westby, 27, said he's always been interested in construction.

"I've done my research and found that being in the union, versus just doing construction off the street, was a better outlet. Work is promising, you get benefits of all sorts, pension and vacation pay. It's like a family. That was my inspiration to join," Westby said.

The next step for Palladium Residences is approval by the city Planning Commission, which will meet within two to three months. "We're in the middle of intense development in the City of Los Angeles," Miller said. "Let's do it the right way. The Palladium Residences is a project that everyone can be proud of."



The development, on Sunset Boulevard, will include a restaurant.



The theater was renovated in 2007.



Ricardo Andrade of Laborers Local 300 testifies.



## Plumbers Local 78 Annual Apprenticeship Golf Fundraiser



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# LONG BEACH PORT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

which was approved April 27 by the Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners, covers all projects under the second and third phases of the Middle Harbor development, including a new cargo container yard; dredging work; a new rail yard; traffic signals; and a new administrative building.

The total estimated value of the construction contracts is \$300 million.

The ten-year, \$1.3 billion Middle Harbor project comprises roughly 30 individual construction projects that will redevelop and combine the port's existing piers E, D, and F into a single, contiguous 342-acre mega-terminal with more than double the capacity—and half the air emissions—of the two former terminals.

## An Extension of Good Work

Work on phase one of the project began in May 2011 under a PLA with the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council.

"This agreement is an extension of the good work that has already taken place at the Port of Long Beach," said Council Executive Secretary Ron Miller. "It's proof that the PLA works for local hire and for bringing in these complex projects on time and on budget."

Long Beach's port commission voted 5-0 in favor of the latest PLA, with local union members, city and regional elected officials all offering their support, including testimony from Long Beach City Councilmember Roberto Uranga.

One component of the latest PLA is a provision that a minimum of 30 percent of the Tradesmen and women working under the contract are to be local hires, including veterans and disadvantaged workers. Also included is language stating that apprentices will be up to 30 percent of the Middle Harbor workforce, and that of the 30 percent, 25 percent must be first-year apprentices.

"We have a desire to increase use of apprentices on projects," Port of Long Beach engineering services managing director Doug Thiessen said.

Among those who addressed the harbor board was Lisa Barber, an IBEW member who's been an Electrician for 21 years. She said the PLA would benefit the port and city in multiple ways.

"It will prevent foreclosures by keeping our local residents working. It will help strengthen the city's economy by employing local residents. And the PLA will bring hope and a career to our people in our local area," she said. "By approving the PLA, you'll make the quality of life better for all Long Beach residents."

Jane Templin, the outreach director for the IBEW's Electrical Training Institute and a Long Beach resident since 1979, said that the apprenticeship component of the PLA is huge, since it helps residents of the city find a career.

"Bringing these people in, giving them a future and building our city is what this is all about," she said.

Janette Bautista, a 20-year member of



Long Beach City Councilman Roberto Uranga testifies for the PLA.



IBEW Local 11 member Janette Bautista points out that women on Trades jobs earn equal pay.

IBEW Local 11 who lives in the area, testified that her first job as an Electrician was in Sun Valley and that she had to take the bus at 2 am to be there by 6:30 am.

Being able to work locally instead of traveling to the outer edges of the LA/Orange County region would be a huge benefit, she said.

"I also believe that by joining the apprenticeship, Trades will help other women like myself, single or married, be able to raise a family on good wages, excellent medical benefits and also earn equal pay as men do," she told the Harbor Commission.

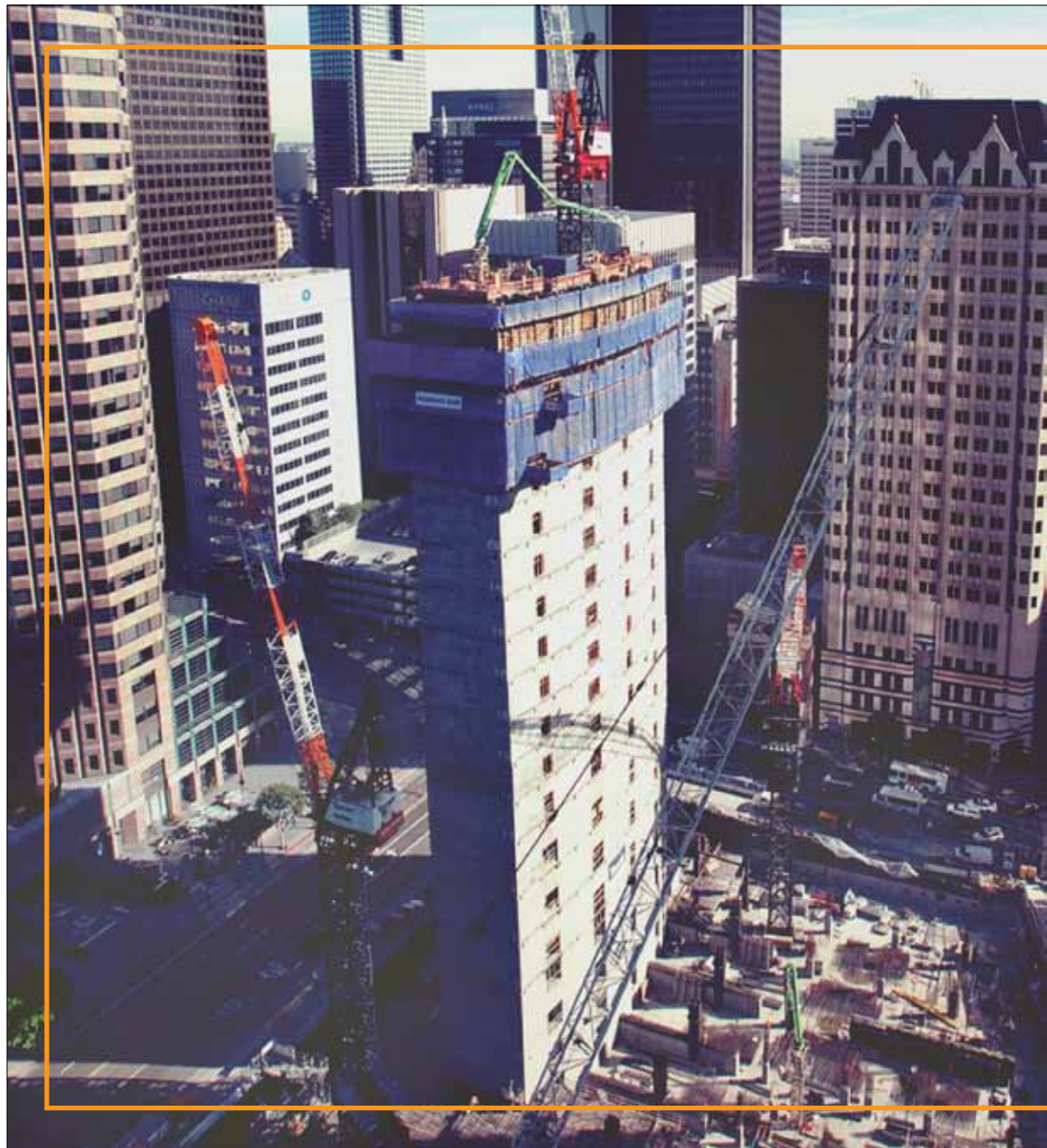
Mark Ursic, owner of Torrance-based CLE Electric, also testified in favor of the PLA, saying that it would help him as a small business owner.

"The PLA offers the opportunity for us to hire out of the (union) hall; we could have 50 Electricians on the job

tomorrow. And as a very small business this is a huge opportunity for us because you can have highly skilled Electricians that can get the job done efficiently, effectively and safely."

In addition to approving the PLA, the harbor board also voted unanimously to explore the negotiation of a port-wide PLA that would cover all upcoming construction projects. In the current fiscal year alone, the Long Beach Harbor Department has plans to spend \$579 million on capital projects as part of a decade-long, \$4 billion investment in upgrades and efficiency improvements.

"I'm not only in support of phases two and three of the Middle Harbor, but I also think that we need to start opening up that aperture to a port-wide Project Labor Agreement to create an atmosphere of jobs for our returning service members," said Mike Kufchak, the veterans affairs director for IBEW Local 11.



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