



The Border Civil Engineer El Paso Branch Newsletter



MAY 2012

ENGINEER'S ROLE IN LITIGATION

**SPEAKER: Rene Ordoñez with
Blanco Ordoñez Mata and Wallace, LLPC**

Rene Ordoñez, a lifelong Texas resident, was born in El Paso on April 28, 1962. He graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso with a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts, with a major in Social Science and a minor in History in 1984. After graduating from the University of Texas at El Paso, he earned a full tuition scholarship to Drake University School of Law, and was granted a Doctorate of Jurisprudence in 1987. He is licensed to practice law before the United States Supreme Court, the United States Tax Court, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Federal District Court for the Western District of Texas, and the Texas Supreme Court.

After receiving his juris doctorate, Mr. Ordoñez was named General Counsel for the El Paso International Airport representing the EPIA in aviation and litigation related matters. Mr. Ordoñez was appointed to serve as an Assistant City Attorney for the City of El Paso, where he was responsible for litigating civil rights, construction, and commercial matters. Mr. Ordoñez was then appointed to serve as Assistant United States Attorney by the United States Attorney General under the administration of George H. Bush, where he prosecuted narcotics, organized crime, and white collar crime cases.

Mr. Ordoñez then joined Delgado, Acosta, Braden & Jones, P.C. in early 1998 where he served as a trial lawyer in the litigation department for nearly ten years, where he represented several businesses, public utilities and individuals based in the United States and abroad. He also represented numerous foreign and American clients related to probate matters, defense of law enforcement officials in civil rights cases, and defense of school districts in labor and civil rights cases.

In 2007, Mr. Ordoñez joined the efforts of his current partners to found the law firm of Blanco Ordoñez Mata & Wallace, P.C. Mr. Ordoñez practices in the Firm's Litigation and Local Government & School Practice Groups, where he has served as General Counsel for one of the largest school districts in Texas and as Counsel for the Republic of Mexico, in addition to managing a docket comprised primarily of complex international, commercial, and probate litigation matters.

DATE:

Wednesday, May 23, 2012

LOCATION:

The State Line - 1222 Sunland Park Drive

TIME: 11:30 a.m.

COST: \$20 for ASCE Members

\$15 for Students

RSVP: to Jackie or Adrienne by 12:00 pm on Monday, May 20th at
quantum@qeceng.com or (915) 532-7272

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ASCE EL PASO BRANCH GOALS

1. Promote Civil Engineering
2. Increase Meeting Participation
3. Give back to the community
4. Improve Branch Operations
5. Support the UTEP Chapter



2012-2013 PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS

THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS WILL BE PROCEEDING BASED ON PRIOR ELECTIONS:

PAST PRESIDENT - KATRINA M. MARTICH, P.E.

PRESIDENT - ROBERT A. GONZALES, P.E.

BRANCH DIRECTORS 2011 - 2013

CHRIS NANCE, P.E.

JOSE REYES, P.E.

SECTION DIRECTOR 2011-2013

ISABEL VASQUEZ, P.E.

THE FOLLOWING NOMINEES ARE:

PRESIDENT ELECT - YVONNE CONDE, P.E.

TREASURER - WENDY M. ARREDONDO, E.I.T.

SECRETARY - MARVIN GOMEZ, P.E.

BRANCH DIRECTORS 2012 - 2014

ROXANNE MEDINA, P.E.

THOMAS VICK, P.E..

FLOOR WILL BE OPEN FOR NOMINATIONS PRIOR TO THE ELECTION AT THE GENERAL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 23RD.

**ASCE UTEP STUDENT CHAPTER TO HOST
THE 2013 TEXAS-MEXICO REGION STEEL BRIDGE COMPETITION**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO STUDENT CHAPTER OF ASCE WAS SELECTED AT THE TEXAS SECTION SPRING MEETING BY THEIR FELLOW STUDENT CHAPTERS TO HOST THE 2013 STEEL BRIDGE TEXAS-MEXICO REGIONAL COMPETITION. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE STUDENT CHAPTER FOR BEING SELECTED. THE UTEP STUDENT CHAPTER WILL NEED SUPPORT NOT ONLY FINANCIALLY BUT ALSO FOR THE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT, STAFF, AND EVENT ORGANIZATION. ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING OR IN PROVIDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT, PLEASE CONTACT WENDY ARREDONDO AT (915) 532-7272 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

18 UTEP STEEL BRIDGE TEAM COMPETITION PREVIEW
SEE PAGE 3 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

23 ASCE GENERAL MEETING - THE STATE LINE (1222 SUNLAND PARK DRIVE), 11:30 a.m.

JUNE

1 TRENDS AND REGULATION AFFECTING WATER, WASTEWATER & FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT - MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUILDING, TRAINING ROOM (7968 SAN PAULO DR.) SEE PAGE 4 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

7 ASCE BOARD MEETING - DELI STREET (3800 N. MESA ST.), 11:30 a.m.

27 ASCE GENERAL MEETING - THE STATE LINE (1222 SUNLAND PARK DRIVE), 11:30 a.m.

El Paso Branch Officers

President

Katrina M. Martich, P.E.
Martich Professional Services
kmartich@martichps.com

President-Elect

Robert A. Gonzales, P.E.
Quantum Engineering Consultants, Inc.
quantum@qeceng.com

Treasurer

Yvonne Curry, P.E.
Conde, Inc.
ycurry@condeinc.com

Secretary & Newsletter Editor

Wendy M. Arredondo, EIT
Quantum Engineering Consultants, Inc.
wbarron@qeceng.com

Section Director (2011-13)

Isabel Vasquez, P.E.
Huitt-Zollars
ivasquez@huitt-zollars.com

Past-President

Gilbert Andujo, P.E., C.F.M.
Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc.
gandujo@team-psc.com

El Paso Branch Directors

2010-12

Marvin H. Gomez, P.E., C.F.M.
Moreno Cardenas, Inc.
mgomez@morenocardenas.com

2010-12

Roxanne Rivera-Medina, P.E.
Huitt-Zollars
rrivera@huitt-zollars.com

2011-13

Jose Reyes, P.E.
jorey02@aol.com

2011-13

Chris Nance, P.E.
Parkhill, Smith, and Cooper, Inc.
cnance@team-psc.com

El Paso Branch Mentor

Ramon Lara, P.E.
Retired



CONDE INC

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F (915) 532-7373



**Send the Team
Off to Nationals!**

**UTEP ASCE
Steel Bridge Team
Competition Preview**

Friday, May 18 at 12:30 pm
@ New Engineering Courtyard
(between Chemistry-CS and Engineering)

Parking available in front of the
Mike Loya Academic Services Building
(corner of Hawthorne & Schuster)

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jrodarte@huitt-zollars.com

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Jaime Rojas, P.E.
Manager/Principal Engineer

Phone: 915-771-7766

Fax: 915-771-7786

Email: jrojaseqc@sbeglobal.net

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SPACE FOR SPONSOR

2012 ENGINEERING SEMINARS | FOUR HOURS: 4.0 PDHs FOR TEXAS PEs
**TRENDS AND REGULATION AFFECTING WATER,
WASTEWATER & FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT**

SEMINAR DESCRIPTION

This half-day seminar will provide an overview of federal, state and local requirements that directly impact water, wastewater and stormwater management in the El Paso community. A practical framework of key policies that shape the management of these systems will be presented. Emerging trends in treatment processes and anticipated regulatory changes will be discussed. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) efforts to re-assess Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) projects for communities impacted by levee systems that are not accredited will be discussed. The following topics will be covered.

WATER

- Energy conservation and optimization in water treatment and distribution systems
- New Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Rules, primarily those affecting drinking water quality
- Regulatory impacts of the drought
- Compliance with the Groundwater Rules
- Transition from a system wide average for disinfection byproducts to a locational running annual average (effective April 2012)

WASTEWATER

- Energy conservation and optimization in wastewater treatment systems
- Increasing the use of highly treated wastewater effluent for non-potable water use and aquifer recharging
- Utilizing digester gas to generate electricity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Closer monitoring of personal care products and pharmaceuticals present in wastewater effluents and environmental impacts
- Nutrient limits that require extensive capital investment in plant treatment

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

- FEMA defined floodplains and floodways
- Provisions for flood hazard reduction for new construction and substantial improvements
- Standards for Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) with or without Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) and areas outside the Special Flood Hazard Areas
- FEMA's analysis of proposed mapping procedures for non-accredited levees

SEMINAR BENEFITS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Understand basic water and wastewater treatment processes and how regulatory changes drive the cost of capital improvements
- Alternatives to bricks and mortar storm water facilities and their effectiveness
- Gain an operating knowledge of essential floodplain management policies and procedures as they pertain to land development and building permits

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

This seminar is designed for engineers, project managers, construction contractors, planners and decision makers who are concerned with this range of water development issues.

SEMINAR DETAILS

Friday June 1, 2012
8:00 a.m. – Noon

Municipal Services Building, Training Room
7968 San Paulo Dr.
El Paso, TX 79907

Price: \$129 **Late Registration (after May 25th): \$169**

Coffee and light breakfast included

HOW TO REGISTER [Register Online \(CLICK HERE\)](#)

Course Code: 125XEN3008

Phone: 915.747.5142 In Person: Kelly Hall, Suite 102

Mail: Kelly Hall, Suite 102, 500 West University Ave, El Paso TX, 79968

SAVE 10% ON TWO OR MORE REGISTRATIONS FROM THE SAME ORGANIZATION

Registrations Must Be Made At The Same Time To Receive This Discount By Calling 915.747.5142.

SEMINAR SERIES DEVELOPED BY PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS AT UTEP IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND LOCAL CHAPTERS OF ENGINEERING ASSOCIATIONS.

INSTRUCTED BY



JOHN E. BALLIEW, P.E.

Vice President of Operations and Technical Services
El Paso Water Utilities

John Balliew has worked for the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board since April 1983 in multiple capacities. Under the leadership of President/CEO Ed Archuleta, he is responsible for managing water, wastewater, reclaimed water service, and storm water operations for the greater El Paso metropolitan area. During his tenure with EPWU, he has served on the teams that designed and constructed seven water treatment plants and one wastewater treatment plant, plus numerous upgrades and expansions of existing facilities. He currently oversees a capital program of over \$100 million and a staff of nearly 600 individuals. Mr. Balliew is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Texas. He holds a BS degree in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M University. He has served on the Board of Directors of the American Membrane Technology Association and the South Central Membrane Association. He was the TSPE El Paso Chapter 1993 Young Engineer of the Year and the 2011 Engineer of the Year.



R. ALAN SHUBERT, P.E., C.F.M., C.B.O., CNU-A

City Engineer
City of El Paso

Alan Shubert's professional career in the development and engineering business extends over 31 years in both the private and public sectors. As the El Paso City Engineer, Mr. Shubert provides critical oversight of the Engineering & Construction Management Department and is responsible for the planning and execution of capital improvement projects, building permits and inspection activities, and land development. In addition, he is the appointed Floodplain Administrator for the City of El Paso. Mr. Shubert holds a BS in Civil Engineering from the New Mexico State University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in Texas and a licensed General Contractor in New Mexico. He is a certified Building Official with the International Code Council and a certified Flood Plain Manager with the Texas Floodplain Management Association. Mr. Shubert is also an accredited member of the Congress of New Urbanism.

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VERDE REALTY

201 E. Main
4th Floor
El Paso, TX 79901
Tel: (915) 225-3219
Fax: (915) 351-2255
gilbert.mesa@verderealty.com