ACEC CA - Bay Bridge Chapter's Annual

2026 Engineering Excellence Awards

Deadline for All Materials - Monday, November 16, 5:00pm

Professional engineers and land surveyors dedicated to building a better California.



Submission Requirements

Eligibility for the Bay Bridge Chapter Engineering Excellence Awards

Any ACEC California Member firm engaged in the practice of consulting engineering or surveying is eligible to enter the awards program.

Qualifying Projects

Engineering or surveying projects must be in the nine-county SF Bay Area Region: (San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano, Napa, Sonoma, and Marin).

Engineering or surveying projects may have been executed anywhere in the world. Studies and Research (Category A) or Surveying and Mapping Projects (Category D) must have been publicly disclosed by the clients between November 1, 2024 and October 31, 2026. Construction of projects (Categories B through L - with the exception of D) must have been substantially completed and ready for use between the same dates.

Projects are judged for their overall engineering excellence, the work performed by the entering firm only, and the rating guidelines listed below.

Categories & Requirements

1. The firm must select the appropriate category. (However, some of the categories are broad while others are more specific, and your project may fall into several categories. Please mark the most appropriate.) It is important to note that the submittal judging is focused on the quality of engineering and land surveying creativity, not on the category selected. Category A projects, should they lead to design and/or construction, may be considered for subsequent years in another category.
2. Entries must be submitted according to the requirements under, "How to Submit an Entry". Non-compliance with these requirements will disqualify an entry.
3. Unless otherwise indicated (see #4 below) firms entering projects are assumed to be the prime design professional for the entered project. Entries on behalf of a joint venture must be accompanied by a letter signed by all joint venture partners consenting to the project submission.
4. If submitting as a sub-consultant for a specific element of engineering or surveying work on a project, the entrant must include a letter from the prime consultant with whom they were contracted to verify the scope of the work the entrant performed.



Entries must be submitted to acec.ca.bbc@gmail.com by 5:00pm PT on Monday, November 16, 2026. Judging will take place in November 2026 and winners will be notified shortly after.

5. The ACEC California Engineering Excellence Awards Committee reserves the right to determine eligibility and category classification of all entries.

Entry Materials (including photographs) become the property of ACEC California and will not be returned. Materials may be used in ACEC California publications.

Rating Guidelines and Definitions for Judges

1. **Original or Innovative Application of New or Existing Techniques 20%**
   - *Does the entry demonstrate the use of a new science or a breakthrough in the general knowledge of engineering?*
   - *Does the entry represent a unique application of new or existing technology, techniques, materials or equipment?*
2. **Future Value of the Engineering Profession and Perception by the Public: 20%**
   - *Will the entry redefine current engineering thinking?*
   - *Does the entry advance a positive public image of engineering excellence?*
3. **Social, Economic and Sustainable Design Considerations: 20%**
   - *Do the solutions identified produce secondary benefits of value to the community environment?*
   - *Does entrant's approach provide society with social, economic, or sustainable development benefits?*
   - *Does the entrant's contribution to the project improve the health, safety or welfare of the public or affected environment?*
4. **Complexity: 20%**
   - *Did the entry successfully address very complex criteria or unique problems?*
   - *Were extraordinary problems of site, location, hazardous conditions, project requirements or similar elements present?*
   - *Did the entry require the use of out-of-the-ordinary technology or ingenuity for achievement of the project's goals?*
5. **Exceeding Client/Owner Needs..... 20%**
   - *Did the entrant successfully engage the client/owner in the overall project development process?*
   - *Is it an economical and cost-effective solution?*
   - *How did the final cost relate to the original budget estimate?*
   - *How closely does the entrant's solution meet the total goals of the client/owner?*
   - *Did the entrant meet the client's time schedule?*

The following materials must be submitted:

Official Electronic Entry Requirements

All project information shall be submitted by an Electronic File (ie. OneDrive, Dropbox, GoogleDrive). You will provide this information by submitting a link when filling out the electronic entry.

1. *Official Entry Form:* The engineer or surveyor, client and owner must all sign the entry form stating that the project was or will be substantially completed and ready for use in the qualifying period. This must be submitted in PDF format.
2. *Project Description:* The project description should not exceed five (5) pages (8 1/2" x 11" with 1' margins min., single-spaced), and address all items listed below in a format that can be easily identified and followed by EEA judges. Photos, graphs, etc. are included within the page limit. This document must be submitted in PDF format.
    - Firm's role in the project.
    - Role of other consultants and contractor(s) if applicable, participating in the project.
    - Description of the firm's contribution to the project, including:
        i. Original or Innovative Application of New or Existing Techniques (**20pts**)
            - *Use of new science or breakthrough general engineering knowledge (10pts)*
            - *Unique application of different technology, technique, materials or equipment (10pts)*
        ii. Future Value to the Engineering Profession & Public Perception (**20pts**)
            - *Redefine current engineering thinking (10pts)*
            - *Advances a positive public image of engineering excellence (10pts)*
        iii. Social-Economic and Sustainable Design Considerations (**20pts**)
            - *Solutions produce value to the community environment (6pts.)*
            - *Approach provides society with social-economic or sustainable development benefits (7pts.)*
            - *Contribution to project improves health, safety or welfare of the public or environment (7pts.)*
        iv. Complexity (**20pts**)
            - *Addresses very complex criteria or unique problems (7pts.)*
            - *Extraordinary problems of site, location, hazardou s conditions, project requirements (7pts.)*
            - *Use of out-of-the-ordinary technology or ingenuity (6pts.)*
        v. Exceeding Client/Owner Needs (**20pts**)
            - *Successful engagement of Client/Owner in overall project development process (4pts.)*
            - *Economical and cost-effective solution (4pts.)*
            - *Relation of final cost to original budget estimate (both for overall project and consultant's services) (4pts.)*
            - *Solution closely meets the total goals of Client/ Owner (4pts.)*
            - Client's time schedule met (4pts.)
        v. Summary
            - Describe in layman's terms why this project is worthy of special recognition (word count between 100 - 500 words). Explain all factors that exhibit the project's uniqueness and complexity, such as innovative engineering, challenges faced and overall social impact.
3. *Executive Summary:* The executive summary should not exceed one page (8 1/2" x 11' with 1' margins min., double-spaced) summarizing the submission. Project title and entry category should appear at the top of the page. This document must be submitted in PDF format.
4. *Client/Owner Letter:* A one-page letter from the Client/Owner describing the relationship with the entrant in the development of the project, and in meeting and exceeding Client/Owner needs. Letter must be signed by Client/Owner. Address, but do not mail, this letter to ACEC CA Bay Bridge Chapter, acec.ca.bbc@gmail.com. All entries must submit this document as part of their package. This document must be submitted in PDF format.
5. *Project Introduction :*This document/script should not exceed 200 words and is used as the presentation script (with possible modification) during the Awards Banquet. The introduction should point out the most unique or significant aspects of the project and the community benefits. It should be written as though the project won an award. This document must be submitted in Microsoft Word. See: "Sample Project Introduction Script" on back cover.
6. *Published Project Articles: Provide links to any and all published Media articles of your project. This document must be submitted in Microsoft Excel. .*
7. *Press Release: In 40 words or less, please provide a press release that clearly and concisely describes the project and the entrant's participation based on the information provided in the Project Description. Also describe the value of the project to the community including information such as the number of people served, cost savings, etc. Do not reference other awards the project has won. This document must be submitted in Microsoft Word. See: "Sample Press Release".*
    - *Press Release Disclaimer: Please be aware that the press release you submit will be used as a sample and may need to be edited*

Definitions and Notes

Substantially Completed: A project that is expected to be operational and to meet its intended purpose between November 1, 2024 and October 31, 2026.



Note: Naming your Documents: Please name your documents accordingly. Abbreviated firm name, abbreviated project name and document type. For example: Biggs Cardosa & Associates, Inc. entered a project, Santa Clara Station Pedestrian Underpass.

- Official Entry Form: Biggs_SCSPed_OfficialEntry
- Client/Owner Letter: Biggs_SCSPed_Client_Owner
- Project Description: Biggs_SCSPed_Project_Description
- Project Summary: Biggs_SCSPed_Project_Summary
- Project Introduction: Biggs_SCSPed_Intro
- Media Folder: Biggs_SCSPed_Media
  - Biggs_SCSPed_Press
  - Biggs_SCSPed_Articles
- Photos Folder: Biggs_SCSPed_Photos
  - Biggs_SCSPed_Photo1
  - Biggs_SCSPed_Photo2

Entry Upload Checklist

1. Please fill out the Official Entry Form and provide ACEC BBC with the following information:
   a. ACEC California Bay Bridge Chapter
   b. Firm's role in the project
   c. Preparer, Principal or Lead Engineer and any additional contact information
   d. Entering firm(s) information
   e. Client/Owner information
   f. Official project name
   g. *Unless you are the sole Prime, you must also provide:*
      - *If submitting on behalf of a joint venture, a letter signed by all joint venture partners consenting to the project submission.*
      - *If submitting as a sub-consultant for a specific element of engineering or surveying work on a project, a letter from the Prime with whom they were contracted to verify the scope of the work the entrant performed.*
   h. Name of Prime construction contractor
2. Executed Official Entry Form
3. Project Description & Summary
4. Client/Owner Letter
5. Published Project Article Links
6. Project Photos

Hyperlinks

- BBC EEA Entry form - Application
- Application submission Email: acec.ca.bbc@gmail.com

Use Email Subject Header:
ACEC BBC EEA Award Entry – [Firm Name]

- Provide your hyperlink to download your application files

Completed entries are due by 5:00pm PT on Monday, November 16, 2026. Projects received after this date/time will not be accepted and will not be returned. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Bernardo Hernandez at Bernardo.hernandez@aecom.com and Nick Brunetto at nbrunetto@woodrodgers.com with ACEC BBC EEA included in your subject header.

Awardees Benefits and Requirements

Awarded firms will be entitled to one (1) free ticket to our holiday luncheon at Scott's Seafood in Oakland, Thursday, December 3rd, where a single plaque will be given, acknowledging the award and allowing your representative one (1) minute to say a few words to attendees (additional plaques can be purchased after the event).

Your firm name and logo will be add to holiday lunch promotions after winners are notified, as well as acknowledgement during the lunch on presentation slides, and on our LinkedIn page. We will use the project images provided for these uses.

Firms selected to receive an Award are highly encouraged to submit one (1) sustainably produced (no foam core or lamination), 24" x 17" photographic display panel for use at the BBC Holiday Lunch, which must arrive at the venue **two hours prior** to event start time. You may take the display panel with you at the end of the banquet. ACEC CA BBC will not be responsible for any damages to or loss of an entrant's photographic display panel.

Dates to Remember

Monday, NOVEMBER 16, 2026: Deadline for Submission of the Official Electronic Entry Form and Electronic Online Folder.

Wednesday, NOVEMBER 25, 2025: Results will be announced via email to Entrants.

Thursday, DECEMBER 3, 2026: Project awards will be presented during our Holiday Lunch at Scott's Seafood, Jack London Square, Oakland

Project Summary Sample

Cross Border Xpress (CBX) Terminal Building and Pedestrian Skybridge in San Diego, CA by Kleinfelder of San Diego, CA. The bi-national project spans the U.S/Mexico border and directly connects a new terminal building in San Diego to the Tijuana International Airport (TIJ), making TIJ the only airport in the world with terminals in two countries. CBX is a high-profile, high-security project toll crossing for ticketed airline passengers offering a direct, convenient connection for TIJ passengers traveling to or from Southern California. The bridge allows passengers flying into or out of Tijuana International Airport to circulate across the international border between two terminal buildings, enabling them to avoid unpredictable border wait times and often-lengthy delays at congested land ports of entry at San Ysidro or Otay Mesa.



Entry Categories



The ACEC CA BBC 2026 Engineering Excellence Awards Competition recognizes engineering and land surveying firms for projects that demonstrate an exceptional degree of innovation, complexity, achievement and value. A distinguished panel of judges will evaluate and rank submissions by engineering excellence. Projects are judged for their overall engineering excellence, the work performed by the entering firm only, and the rating guidelines listed. Entrants should select a category below under which the project will be ranked on comparison to all submissions.

CATEGORY A: Studies, Research and Consulting Services (Non-design services, projects not involving the preparation of construction documents consisting of, but not limited to, the following):

- New products, materials and technologies
- Expert testimony
- Basic research and studies
- Computer/software technology
- Technical papers
- Public outreach/involvement
- Water conservation
- Security plans
- Project feasibility, economic, or risk studies
- Value engineering

CATEGORY B: Building/Technology Systems

- Mechanical/electrical/plumbing
- Computer/technology
- Communications
- Acoustics
- Software systems
- Sustainability or carbon neutrality
- Efficiency certification standards, e.g. LEED
- Energy efficiency - new and retrofit
- Secure facilities (military, research, correctional)

CATEGORY C: Structural Systems

- Foundations
- Tunnels
- Buildings
- Seismic Design
- Towers
- Bridges
- Stadiums

CATEGORY D: Surveying and Mapping Technology

- Geomatics, ALTA, land title and rights surveys
- Control, GPS, monitoring or construction surveying
- Survey mapping, GIS/LIS, photogrammetry

CATEGORY E: Environmental

- Hazardous waste
- Solid waste
- Restoration/reclamation/remediation
- Air quality
- Noise
- Recycling
- Waste pond management
- Carbon Sequestration and trading
- Mitigation

CATEGORY F: Water and Storm Water

- Wastewater collection/treatment and disposal
- Residuals management and reuse
- Graywater systems
- CSO's
- Mine tailings
- Storm water management
- Erosion control

CATEGORY G: Water Resources

- Hydraulics, hydrology
- Surface and groundwater supply development
- Treatment
- Transmission, distribution & storage
- Watershed management
- Water use reduction
- Flood risk management
- Climate adaptation
- Coastal and eco-system restoration
- Locks/dams/water control structures
- Irrigation

CATEGORY H: Transportation

- Highways
- Rail
- Airports
- Marine/ports
- Public Transit
- Intermodal facilities

CATEGORY I: Special Projects

- Safety and security
- Corrosion protection/cathodic protection
- Program and construction management
- Land development
- Trenchless technologies
- Recreational facilities
- Subsurface engineering

CATEGORY J: Small Projects

- Total Project construction budget does not exceed $2.5 million (at the entrant's discretion, except for entries in Category A, projects under $2.5 million are not limited to this category).

CATEGORY K: Energy

- Transmission and distribution
- Power generation
- Renewable energy
- Cogeneration
- Energy storage technologies
- Energy usage reduction programs
- Demand side management

CATEGORY L: Industrial and Manufacturing Processes & Facilities

- Petrochemical
- Biotech
- Manufacturing
- Heavy industry
- Industrial waste
- Materials handling
- Mining, metallurgy, mineralogy