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## Vision

Official Publication of the Orange County Chapter of California Landscape Contractors Association • www.clca-orangecounty.org



Cover Photo: Overlook at Anaheim Hills by 2022 multi award-winning contractor Stay Green.



OC VISION P.O. Box 12044 Newport Beach, CA 92658

#### **2023 Orange County Chapter CLCA Coaching Staff**



Coaching Staff

President **DAVE HORTON** So Cal Concepts, Inc. (949) 653-1101

For information about what we're doing in 2023, contact Dave.



**V.P. Education** Jose Acevedo Pacific Breeze Landscape, Inc. (714) 684-9232

For inquiries relating to educational programs and their development, contact Jose.



V.P. Resource Management DYLAN PACK Park West (949) 207-4599

For information relating to CLCA's involvement in California's resource management, contact Dylan.



Bookkeeper **STEVE BECKSTROM** Angeffects (949) 463-3284

For anything chapter finance related, contact Steve.

Secretary ED WALLACE Midwest Landscaping (562) 755-9914

For records of the chapter board meeting minutes, contact Ed.



#### **V.P. Legislation RICHARD COHEN** Richard Cohen Landscape & Const. (949) 768-0599

For legislation information, on both the state and local level, contact Richard.



Director DAVE NORRED Nor-Land Landscaping Co. (949) 495-6469

For answers to general inquiries, contact Dave.



V.P. Membership **BLAKE BOYD** Southwest Landscapes (714) 720-8285

For information about becoming a CLCA-OC Chapter member, contact Blake.



**AM Representative BILL DEEBLE CLCA Insurance Solutions** (562) 243-5330

For questions relating to our OC Champions program or Golf Tournament, contact Bill.



**V.P. Events** MARGOT BOYER Landscape Communications (714) 726-3843

For questions relating to our annual programs and events, contact Margot.

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**Chapter Editor/Webmaster BRONWYN MILLER** Eyescapes (949) 466-1222

For inquiries relating to chapter communications, both print and online, contact Bronwyn.

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#### **Chapter Beautification Awards Are Here!**

Know it's hard to believe, but it's time to start thinking about your Beautification Award entries. April is a good time to analyze which jobs you think will do best in the competition and are the easiest to get ready. When deciding which projects to enter, here are a couple things to keep in mind. If it's a maintenance job, you have to have had the account for at least one year before the judging. If it's an installation job, the work needs to be 100% complete before the judging. This year's judging will take place June 15-17.

For those of you who haven't entered the competition in the past and are looking to do so this year, here are some tips for getting your projects ready. *You can also find a checklist for preparing a winning entry on page 8 of this OC Vision.* 

If you're entering an installation job, make sure all of your plant heights are correct and that the grading of planters and lawns have positive fall to all of the drains. Make sure all trees are planted correctly and are staked to industry standards. Check the spacing of all sprinklers and ensure coverage is correct. Make sure all valve locations, valve boxes, and quick couplers are located in areas not to impact the aesthetics of the landscape. All drip irrigation should be top dressed to camouflage the piping. Controllers should have a panel schedule in them. All lighting fixtures should be straight and directionally correct, with wires buried. Masonry must be of top quality and have a professional appearance.

If you're entering a maintenance job, obviously green

healthy lawns go a long way. Hedges should be level to grade. Trees pruned, and if needed, staked correctly. All areas should be weed-free and clean of debris. Annual color should have evenly spaced patterns and be graded correctly. If possible, bare dirt



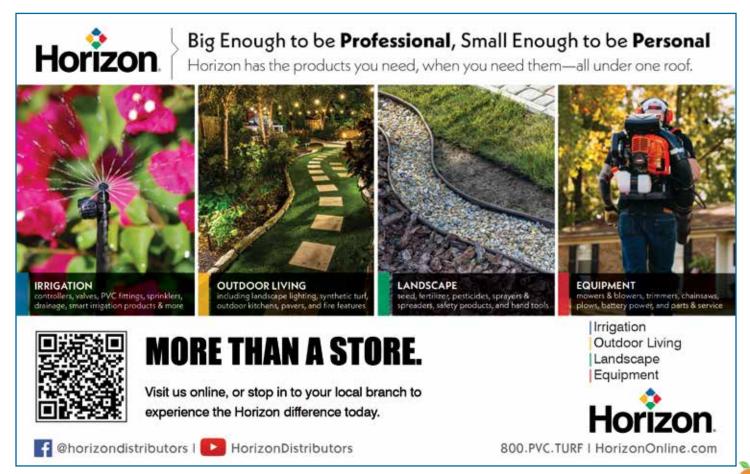
Dave Horton So Cal Concepts Chapter President

areas should have top dressing. All pots should be clean, organized, and healthy. And, the most important thing for ALL projects, installation and maintenance, is that they're properly irrigated.

Don't forget to tell your homeowner, HOA, or property manager that you would like to enter their property into the competition. They will be excited about it. Be sure to let them know if there is any cost to them for sprucing things up. In most cases, they will not have a problem paying for it. This should not be a situation that costs you any money. However, if they don't have the money, or feel you should pay for it, you will need to decide how important it is to enter that project. In my opinion, if it is a nice project that can be used for advertising and helps to give you good exposure, then it IS worth it.

Remember, consistency in anything is a good thing. Being able to tell your customers that you are a consistent winner every year is huge. It also makes your crews strive for a higher consistent quality.

~Sincerely, Dave



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# ALEAGUE ANO

#### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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Includes foursome of golf, hole sponsorship, and four lunches.

#### US OPEN PACKAGE | \$450

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#### HOLE SPONSORSHIP | \$285

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#### **COFFEE SPONSOR | \$250**

Sponsor coffee for the golfers to enjoy during registration! Your company logo displayed at the coffee table. ONLY TWO AVAILABLE. Does not include golf or lunch.

#### DONATE A RAFFLE PRIZE!

#### THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023

California Landscape Contractors Association - Orange County Chapter

**2023 ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT** 

#### **TIJERES CREEK GOLF CLUB**

29082 TIJERAS CREEK | RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA | 92688 The Ted Robinson-designed Tijeras Creek Golf Club offers a "tale of two nines" as the distinctive course layout. It opens with a demanding front nine that is highlighted with shimmering water features that come into play on three out of the first nine holes. The back nine holes are legendary for the breathtaking scenery, and awe-inspiring elevation changes that wind through old growth sycamores, oaks and native chaparral. In fact, hole number sixteen was voted as one of Orange County's Best 18 Holes by members of the Southern California Professional Golfers Association.

8 A.M. SHOTGUN START. Registration opens at 7:00 a.m.

**REGISTER:** Registration and payment must be completed by May 17, 2023. *Register on our website at www.clca-orangecounty.org.* 

PRICE: \$165/golfer. Includes participation in the tournament & lunch.

FORMAT: Four Person Scramble.

QUESTIONS: Call Bronwyn Miller at (949) 466-1222.

**RETURNING THIS YEAR...** We will have a lunch and awards banquet following the tournament. We will also have a raffle, conducted in a pick-a-prize format. Tickets will be sold during registration and lunch and participants will be able to choose the prize they want to win! Winners will be drawn following lunch.

#### THANK YOU TO THIS YEAR'S OC CHAMPIONS













#### CLCA Celebrates a Successful Legislative Action Conference



CLCA on the floor of the state Assembly: Assemblymember Josh Hoover (fifth from left) is joined by CLCA members (pictured left to right) Evan Moffitt, Rick Oropeza, Regan Barry, Megan Rios, OC Chapter VP Legislation Richard Cohen, John McCabe, and Jay Martinez.

The California Landscape Contractors Association's advocacy efforts were in full swing April 11-12 for the 2023 CLCA Legislative Action Conference.

Big thanks to our participants who traveled to our state capitol in Sacramento to advocate for our industry. Faceto-face conversations with members of the state Senate and Assembly and their staff are the most impactful way to get CLCA's message across to those making decisions. The practice of legislators meeting with constituents to discuss issues of concern is one-on-one lobbying at its finest lobbying at the grassroots level. Not only are these meetings interesting, but they are also very effective!

California's landscape contractors have one of the widest scopes of work of all the states that license landscape contractors. Why? Because of the consistent advocacy work by CLCA's members, volunteer leaders, staff, and legislative advocate.

In each two-year legislative session, over 2,500 bills are introduced for consideration. We read them, flag them, and track them as we continue our advocacy for landscape contractors. You can see those bills by visiting https://clca. org/advocacy/clca-legislation-center/.

We are thankful for the CLCA member companies who supported their employees' interest and effort to be a part of this important event. Their participation was crucial to helping propel our advocacy efforts in 2023.

Advertise in the OC Vision! Call (949) 466-1222 for information.

mark four calendars & sube the Dates now?			
OC Chapter Golf Tournament, 8 a.m. Shotgun. Tijeras Creek Golf Club, Rancho Santa Margarita.			
Find more information on page 4 of this OC Vision.			
OC Chapter Beautification Awards Entries Due.			
Entry forms online at www.clca-orangecounty.org.			
Beautification Awards Landscape Judging.			
Family Fun Day & BBQ. Doheny State Beach.			
More details coming soon.			
Baseball Game & Tailgate. Angels vs Mariners.			
Anaheim Stadium: 2000 E. Gene Autry Way.			
Annual Beautification Awards, Yorba Linda.			
Black Gold Golf Club: 1 Black Gold Drive.			

2023 CLCA-OC Calendar

Mark Your Calendars & Save the Dates Now!

#### Connect, Learn, and Grow with CLCA! Not a Member? Join at clca.org/join



#### **Updated Pro-C Controller Offers Improved Functionality**

Hunter's Pro-C Controller has been the professional's choice in residential and light commercial landscape projects for decades. This reliable controller provides simple, affordable irrigation management with convenient expansion options in a compact package. Pro-C users can choose from conventional wiring, innovative EZ Decoder control, or hybrid conventional/two-wire operations. This provides the ultimate flexibility when designing or installing a new project, retrofitting an outdated system, or expanding a landscape.

As of 2023, the original Pro-C Controller has been replaced with an updated version. This next-generation Pro-C Controller is backward compatible with older modular PC-400 models and adds new features and benefits to the Pro-C line. A fresh, intuitive user interface with a large backlit display allows for simple programming, day or night. Additionally, enhanced sensor functionality and optional Run Times in seconds make the Pro-C a perfect option for projects ranging from single-family homes and business parks to schools and nurseries.

#### • Number of stations:

- \* Conventional wiring from 4 to 23 stations
- \* Hybrid EZ Decoder option up to 32 total stations (28 stations maximum if two-wire only)
- 3 independent irrigation programs (4 start times each) allow for customized scheduling
- Two sensor inputs come standard for use with Hunter Clik or Solar Sync<sup>®</sup> Sensors
- Large, backlit display for simple programming and manual operation in any light
- Optional Seconds Mode offers precise watering and flexible Run Times
- Prewired with power cord and plug for simple installation in indoor and outdoor applications
- 1 P/MV output for pump start relay and master valve activation
- Dedicated Solar Sync dial position provides logic for smart water savings
- SmartPort<sup>®</sup> Wiring Harness ensures quick connection to convenient ROAM and ROAM XL Remotes

Continued on Next Page...

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OC VISION

## Product Spotlight

#### Updated Pro-C Controller

#### ...Continued from previous page

#### **ADVANCED FEATURES**

#### Make it a Watersense® Smart Watering Controller by Adding Solar Sync

Add a Solar Sync<sup>®</sup> Sensor to your Hunter controller to enable automatic smart control and maximize water savings. Solar Sync measures local weather conditions to help the controller fine-tune watering schedules according to exact site needs. Hunter controllers installed with Solar Sync are independently verified to offer an extensive list of watersaving features. Solar Sync is EPA WaterSense® approved.

#### Easy Retrieve<sup>™</sup> Memory

A manual back-up utility that stores complete controller scheduling and setup information in back-up memory.

#### **Automatic Short Circuit Protection**

Automatic short circuit protection is a feature found in all Hunter AC powered controllers. This feature automatically detects electrical faults, which are typically caused by wiring issues. Only affected stations are skipped, allowing all other stations to water normally as programmed.

#### **Quick Check**<sup>™</sup>

The QuickCheck feature makes field wiring issues easy to assess with the push of a button. QuickCheck displays an ERR message when a field wiring short is detected on a particular station number.

#### Seasonal Adjustment

This feature allows for quick adjustment to irrigation run times based on seasonal weather conditions.

#### **Delay Between Stations**

Users can program a delay between stations as the controller advances from one station to the next. This delay can range from a few seconds (to permit slow-closing valves additional time to close) to a much longer period of time (to allow pressure tanks time to recharge), based on user req's.

#### Sensor Programmability

The ability to specify which program will be shut down in response to a specific sensor alarm. This allows programs unaffected by the sensor to continue automatic operations.

More info. can be found at www.hunterindustries.com.



#### Our 2023 OC Champions...

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SPJ Lighting

#### **Preferred Member**

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#### Partner Member

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Orco Block & Hardscapes



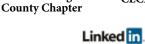
Glen's Landscape Richard Cohen Ldscp.

So Cal Concepts SouthWest Landscape

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**California Landscape Contractors** Association - Orange County Chapter

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#### The Chapter Beautification Awards Competition is Just Around the Corner.... Start thinking NOW about which projects you will enter!

## CHECKLIST FOR PREPARING A WINNING ENTRY

CHOOSE THE PROJECT CAREFULLY			
Look for good basics like: Masonry / Pavers Grading Trees and shrubs Good client	<ul> <li>Concrete work</li> <li>Drainage</li> <li>Color and ground of</li> </ul>	cover	<ul> <li>Woodwork</li> <li>Irrigation</li> <li>Quality maintenance</li> </ul>
PREPARING A PROJECT FOR JUDGING			
<ul> <li>Early work (approximately one</li> <li>Prune</li> <li>Re-plant pots and baskets</li> <li>Re-plant color and ground cover</li> <li>Repair sprinklers, straighten heads</li> <li>Repair masonry or concrete</li> <li>Straighten lighting fixtures</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Fertilize</li> <li>Re-plant shrubs, etc.</li> <li>Re-stake / re-tie trees</li> <li>Apply touch-up paint</li> <li>Acid wash and seal if necessary</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Day Before Judging:</li> <li>Cultivate</li> <li>Last minute color replacement</li> <li>Clean all hardscape</li> <li>Clean drain basins</li> <li>Water dry spots</li> <li>Remove any signs / plant tags</li> <li>Double check on judges access to</li> </ul>	the property	<ul> <li>Top dress</li> <li>Remove all dead</li> <li>Clean all plante</li> <li>Check grading</li> <li>Spot in any miss</li> <li>Get pool, spa, or</li> </ul>	r areas
Day of Judging:			

- Turn off clock
- Turn on all water features



Entry deadline is Thursday, June 1, 2023. Landscape Judging will take place June 15-17, 2023. Visit www.clca-orangecounty.org for more information.

#### **Can a Mechanics Lien Toast Your Business?**

Properly used, a mechanics lien is an essential tool to getting paid. Our friends at the Porter Law Group (the voice of CLCA's popular Attorney on Call member benefit) note that these liens are a customary accepted legal process for the claimant to secure its right to payment. The mechanics lien enables the claimant to eventually sell the property and obtain payment from the proceeds to the extent they remain unpaid. When not properly used, however, they *can* toast

your business. Read *Failing to Release* A Mechanics Lien Can Destroy Your Construction Business below for more on this.

For additional peace of mind, we recommend a variety of Californiaspecific legal forms and contracts. These fill-in-the-blank PDFs are another valuable CLCA member benefit, and include a variety of mechanics lien waivers and releases to match your exact needs (in addition



to a dozen other residential and commercial contracts).

Want to enjoy these exclusive member benefits, but not a member? Join at www.clca.org/join.

#### Failing to Release A Mechanics Lien Can Destroy Your Construction Business By Bill Porter, Founder & President, Porter Law Group • www.porterlaw.com

s the title to this article possibly true? Yes, absolutely! I have seen it happen. Let me tell you how it happens so you can avoid such a result.

When contractors, subcontractors, or suppliers in California construction projects are not paid they often record a mechanics lien on the property on which they worked. This is a customary accepted legal process for the claimant to secure its right to payment. The mechanics lien enables the claimant to eventually sell the property and obtain payment from the proceeds to the extent they remain unpaid. California Civil Code Section 8460 generally requires that a lawsuit to foreclose on a mechanics' lien must be filed in court within ninety (90) days after the mechanics' lien is recorded. If no lawsuit has been filed in court within this 90-day period, then the lien generally becomes unenforceable. Because the mechanics lien remains a cloud on the title to the property if not released, the lien claimant usually releases the mechanics lien if they have failed to meet the lawsuit deadline. Lien claimants will also release a lien and/or dismiss the foreclosure lawsuit in exchange for payment. It is rare that the property is actually sold to obtain payment. This is a brief description of the pathway to payment through the use of a mechanics lien.

Sometimes however, even though a mechanics lien becomes unenforceable due to missing the lawsuit filing deadline, the claimant refuses to release the mechanics lien. This results in the mechanics lien remaining as a cloud on title to the property. As a consequence, it becomes difficult to sell the property or use it as security for credit or a loan. The ill-willed claimant instead prefers to leave the mechanics lien in place to serve as a thorn in the side of the property owner or prime contractor who has failed to pay them. Some hope that the owner will still pay them for releasing the mechanics lien even though it is no longer valid. The claimant who takes this path has effectively started down the path to their own demise as a California contractor. Here is what can happen next:

The claimant will receive a letter from the owner, contractor, or their legal counsel asking that the claimant release the expired mechanics lien. The claimant often responds to say: "Pay me and I will release it." When this happens, the Owner will file a petition before the court to release the lien under California Civil Code section 8482. The court will release the lien and impose a monetary judgment against the mechanics lien claimant for all the attorney fees and costs incurred in petitioning the court to release the lien. When faced with the court judgment, some claimants further their error by responding with silence or the equivalent of: "Ok, just try to get the money from me."

The next step in the process is that the property owner will send the judgment to the California Contractors State License Board ("CSLB"). The CSLB, following the requirements of California Business and Professions Code 7071.17 will give the claimant 90 days to either pay the judgment, file bankruptcy, or appeal the judgment. If they do not do so, then the claimant's contractor's license, required for a contractor to do business in California, is suspended by the CSLB. But there is more:

If the contractor whose license is suspended actually performs work, any work at all on any project while the contractor's license is suspended, then the contractor is subject to "disgorgement" under Business and Professions Code section 7031. Section 7031 provides that any contractor or subcontractor who performs work on a construction project in California without a valid contractor's license in place during the entire time they work on the project may be compelled by Court Order to refund every penny the contractor received for working on the entire project. For contractors working on multiple projects, this results in financial ruin as they are compelled to return every dollar they were paid on each of those projects from the beginning of the project until the end. Bankruptcy is the inevitable result. The contractor is thus completely destroyed. All this as the result of spitefully refusing to release a valueless mechanics lien that could not be enforced in the first place due to its expiration.

This is the very unfortunate but true story of a number of contractors and subcontractors in California, motivated by ill will, who refused to release an expired mechanics lien. In the end, ill will and spite was their undoing. They destroyed themselves. Sic semper tyrannis.



OC MEMBERS & FRIENDS enjoy a fun time at Concourse Bowling in Anaheim on March 28.



**TOP LIGHTS** rep Brett Browning (right) is thanked for his support as an event sponsor by Chapter President Dave Horton. Fun and games were made affordable to attendees thanks to his and our other sponsors' support.



OC BOARD MEMBERS Ed Wallace with Midwest Landscaping and Bill Deeble with CLCA Insurance Solutions welcome attendees with smiles and information about the association. CLCA Insurance Solutions was one of the three event sponsors. We appreciate the support!



**GOOD TIMES** are enjoyed by IE Chapter Treasurer Mark Pedicone and his lovely date, Karen Vaughn.



SOUTHLAND SOD reps Norm Lopez (right) and John Domenici (standing in back) make new friends in Damir Pasic (left), Bryce Shank, and Donette Lamson.





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MILWAUKEE TOOL reps Bradley Herzog and Griffin Crane (right) chat with Eli Magana of Azury Landscaping before the games begin. Thank you to Milwaukee Tool for their event sponsorship!



**SMART TURF** *rep Travis Eyk (right) shares a laugh with new member Justin Hess (left) of Tax & Financial Group and Jessica Bigelow.* 



**WINNER** with the highest score is Adam Hambarian with OxyTurf. He is congratulated by SPJ Lighting rep Carlos Arresola who gifted him Dodgers game tickets for the win.



**GREEN INDUSTRY PALS** Drake Fierro with Brilliance and Jose Acevedo with Pacific Breeze Landscape are among the top scorers for the night, earning them some wine donated by Dave Horton with So Cal Concepts.



PAST CHAPTER & STATE PRESIDENT Paul Hansen chats with Bartlett Tree Experts rep Aaron Fleming about the benefits of CLCA membership.



**TOP SCORERS** Donette Lamson with Harrell's and Mark Pedicone with Imperial Sprinkler Supply are eager to enjoy the wine they won from their impressive scores.





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