

May 18, 2026



INDUSTRY NEWS

Construction Industry Honors 2026 Good Scout of the Year Mike Williamson

By Dustin Steiner, Executive Vice President



Last week, leaders from across both the San Diego construction and military communities gathered to honor one of their own **Captain Mike Williamson** from *Pacific Coast Iron*. Mike was AGC San Diego's President in 2021 and continues to serve on the Board of Directors after a distinguished career in the United States Navy that included three deployments to the Persian Gulf, a stint at the Pentagon, and command of NAVFAC Hawaii.

The event, as usual, was kicked off with some friendly "Beat Army" banter by emcee and Marine Corps pilot (and Naval Academy grad!) **Adam Crecion**. **Sean Roy**, CEO of San Diego-Imperial Council Scouting America,

also offered an update on scouting.

By way of video, Mike shared his thoughts on scouting with a mantra he said came from his time in the Persian Gulf: "We will always succeed...always" and "put your interests aside and worry about the interests of the whole."

Rear Admiral (Ret) Bret Muilenburg served as keynote speaker. He met Mike in 2002 and previously spoke at Mike's retirement from the Navy in Hawaii in 2015. He began with a patriotic tribute to the Navy saying he was "in awe" of their performance today. When they were both stationed in Pearl Harbor, they were neighbors. "Mike," he continued, "was an okay neighbor...but Molly [Mike's better half] is the world's greatest neighbor!"

Rear Admiral Muilenburg then told the story of Mike's attempt to create "AGC Iraq." He joined the Seabee battalion in Southern Iraq in 2003 and talked about how the mission quickly became repair and rebuild schools, medical facilities, and whatever towns needed to get back on their feet in the aftermath of the fall of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. He joked that "a Seabee is bolting together a tradesman and infantryman," and said the workload was tremendous and required hiring and training local craftsmen to work side by side with the Seabees. The going rate in Iraq in 2003? \$2 per man, per day. He said the men were eager and good at what they did and soon the Seabees role transitioned to more quality control and construction management.

The Rear Admiral shared his four points for success:

1. Surround yourself with capable people (more capable than yourself if you can)
2. Train them in the ways and processes of your organization
3. Create and maintain a culture of morality and integrity
4. Issue your commander's intent...be a leader!

RADM Muilenburg wrapped up with a short anecdote about the day Mike got the radio call: "We have located WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction). Get Seabees over there and take possession." Ever the doer, Mike grabbed a bulldozer, excavator, and a crew and went "racing toward the WMD" (without, they noted, the use of today's robust GPS technology!). The second call soon came over the radio, "false alarm, abort mission!"

"I've always wanted to know," the Rear Admiral quipped to laughter while looking at Mike, "what you were going to do when you got there?!"

Mike who is famous for encouraging us to "tell our story"...hasn't told that story.

The lunch continued with video tributes from friends and family, including a funny story from Mike's wife Molly in which she recounted a particularly stressful holiday season where she was trying to make marzipan and ended up burning it. Mike, trying to cheer her up, deposited the burnt pieces along with a can of corn into the toilet, which got a good chuckle from Molly (years later anyway!) and the audience.

Other tributes poured in: "Insanely curious," "character and integrity," and "not afraid of challenges." AGC Board Member and longtime friend, **Steve Friar**, channeling Mike's famous affinity for golf, said "Mike: You are a birdie, while the rest of us are par or bogey."



Mike was presented with a special sketch from Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist **Steve Breen** which depicted Mike with the PCI logo and the ocean behind him.

It was then time for the guest of honor to take the stage.

Mike began by thanking his beloved wife, Molly, to whom he has been married for 34 years. He thanked his children and remarked that their son Erich was actually playing golf at Torrey Pines during the ceremony as he competed in the quarterfinals of the high school tournament.

Captain Mike shared several stories including that RADM Muilenburg was his “detailer” in Okinawa and was responsible for sending him to the Pentagon. When he arrived, he found the philosophy was, “Cut the shore infrastructure 10% every year until they scream and then cut it another 10% and that’s about right.” It became his mission to “fix” this inequity.

As he was wrapping up his time in Iraq, he got the call: “Mike grab a weapon and go to Babylon.” At the time, emcee Adam Crecion was flying KC-130 aircraft and quite possibly flew Mike in or out of Babylon. Today, they work together at Pacific Coast Iron.

Captain Mike wrapped up his comments with what he said is the only speech he ever remembered. A 1998 speech by Jim Caldwell at a retirement ceremony in Port Hueneme. Caldwell, Mike recalled, was known for being a tough guy and said, “The Commander’s intent is so simple: ‘What interests the boss ought to fascinate the crap out of you!’”

Mike, with a twinkle in his eye and a heart full of gratitude, then commanded the crowd: “Go get interested!”



Dam Safety is Damn Important

By Mike McManus, Director of Engineering Construction & Industry Relations

The most recent [report](#) out of the Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) in the Department of Water Resources shows that even though our dam infrastructure is very old, it is in relatively good shape for now. Of the 1,200 dams under the jurisdiction of DSOD, only 60 (4%) were in poor or unsatisfactory condition. These dams will require the responsible agencies to develop and fund projects to repair deficiencies and step up monitoring to be able to react quickly if the situation at the dam in question becomes critical. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) DSOD

mandates regular inspections (every 1-2 years) for most dams to manage risks associated with climate change and seismic activity.

After the most recent report issued by the DSOD, dam safety in San Diego County has come under additional scrutiny due to its highly aging infrastructure, with the City of San Diego's nine raw water storage dams averaging 92 years old. DSOD has imposed stringent water-level restrictions on five local reservoirs, effectively slashing the city's overall water storage capacity by 20% to mitigate downstream flood risks.

Lake Hodges Dam, which was built in 1918, is in unsatisfactory condition and has an extremely high downstream inundation risk. The City of San Diego is reportedly moving up its replacement plan. It has secured a \$240 million federal loan. However, it is not clear how much money will be needed to replace the dam or the environmental impacts of the dam replacement. Several AGC contractors have been involved in emergency repairs at Hodges, and the water levels have been significantly lowered to reduce the risk of dam failure.

City staff have recently told us that their original estimate for the dam replacement was around \$300 million. The replacement cost they now are estimating is \$700 million. That is still a preliminary figure. It is unclear how the city is going to deal with the problem. Even so, the next thing we are expecting is a report from the city's dam consultant who is evaluating the city's nine reservoirs and developing options moving forward. The city staff expect to see that report and make it public later this year.

Two other city dams are recently evaluated as in poor condition according to DSOD. Moreno Dam has a project for upstream face repairs in the design phase. El Capitan Dam, also in poor condition, is undergoing a seismic analysis and is considered an extreme hazard to communities downstream.

Given the city's financial challenges, this is one more unfunded high priority problem for the city to prioritize. Given the fact that only 4% of dams statewide are in poor or unsatisfactory condition, but the city has 33% of its dams in poor condition or unsatisfactory condition, should generate some urgency down at city hall.

Training Camp



Training Camp: Taking Out the Trash (and Bringing Liability With It)

By Adrianna Lopez, Director of Labor Relations

Picture this: You're reviewing certified payroll. Everything looks clean. Crafts are right. Classifications are tight. Then someone says:

'Oh.... the dumpster company? They're just a vendor.'

Record scratch. Because in California public works, dumpsters are NOT just dumpsters, and mishandling them is one of the fastest ways to earn a DIR audit headache.

If a dumpster is removing construction debris from a public works jobsite, prevailing wage mandates are applicable.

SINCE WHEN? SAYS WHO?

California law defines public works very broadly. Effective January 1, 2023, Labor Code §1720.3(a)(2) makes clear that hauling refuse from a public works site is covered work. If the debris comes from executing the public works contract, the hauling is part of the job.

WHEN WEEKLY DUMPSTER PICKUPS ARE COVERED

Prevailing wage applies when the project is deemed a public works project, the dumpster contains construction or demolition debris, and the debris is hauled off the jobsite. In those cases, drivers are generally classified as Driver (Dump Truck) and certified payroll is required.

WHEN DUMPSTER SERVICE IS NOT COVERED

Coverage typically does not apply to private projects, routine commercial or janitorial trash, or hauling performed after construction is complete and occupancy has begun.

AUDIT RED FLAGS

Calling haulers vendors instead of subcontractors, assuming no coverage because the driver stays in the truck, skipping certified payroll, or treating weekly service differently than daily hauling are common mistakes flagged by DIR.

STILL NOT SURE?

When in doubt, treat dumpster haulers on public works like covered subcontractors. Classify properly, pay prevailing wage, collect certified payroll, and document unusual situations in advance.

FINAL WHISTLE

Small dumpster. Big liability. When it leaves the jobsite, prevailing wage rides along.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



The AGC Board of Directors and the AGC staff would like to welcome the following new members to the AGC San Diego Chapter:

[Ardurra Group, Inc.](#)

[DirtPrep Solutions](#)
[J.C. Baldwin Construction Co.](#)
[Kaizen Auto Group](#)
[Snapp/ALKEME](#)

AGC's Motto: *It's Good Business to do Business with an AGC Member.*

FROM OUR COMMITTEES



Sip, Socialize & Build Your Future with CLC!

Are you an early to mid-career professional in the construction industry looking to expand your network and grow your career? The AGC Construction Leadership Council (CLC) is actively seeking new members and we want to meet you!

Join us for the **CLC Sip n' Social**, a casual networking event designed to introduce interested professionals to the CLC community. Enjoy complimentary food and drinks while connecting with fellow industry peers while golfing or playing games on the simulators.

Date: **Thursday, June 11, 2026** - [Register Today!](#)

Location: The Golf Bar, Rancho Bernardo

Time: 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

At the event you will learn about exciting committee opportunities, and discover how CLC can help you:

- Enhance your industry knowledge through relevant programs
- Build lasting professional relationships
- Tour high-profile projects across San Diego

Are you interested in joining the CLC? Skip the wait and sign up here using the [AGC Committee Volunteer form](#).

GIVING BACK

We Need Volunteers!
Deadline is Friday, May 22

AGC Build and Serve Charitable Alliance is supporting [Just in Time](#), helping six former foster youth turn a new apartment into a home.

Interested in participating? Here is a quick summary of what you should know:

Date: June 13

Starting Location: Grantville/Mission Valley

Arrival (Shoppers & Movers): 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Arrival (Drivers): 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Shoppers guide participants in selecting items. **Movers** assist with heavy lifting to load and unload items. **Drivers** use their own large vehicle (SUV, truck or van) to transport furniture and supplies.

We need your help; deadline to volunteer is May 22! Please contact [Marcy Knopman](#) to register for your preferred role.



UPCOMING *Mark Your Calendars* **EVENTS**

- May 19 - [Bags & Brew: Meet Your GC Cornhole Tournament](#) - AGC Lakeside HQ
- June 1 - [Build San Diego Foundation Golf](#) - The Heights Golf Club - **Sponsor Now!**
- June 23 - [AGC Baseball Bash](#) - Petco Park



Know Someone Looking for a Job in Construction? Tell Them to Attend Our Hiring Event!

Our first **Construction Hiring Event** is coming June 30 to help our member companies fill any and all open positions and to help job seekers get into our industry! [Sign up](#) today to hire or find new opportunities.

[Share this flyer with all interested parties today!](#)

Questions? Contact [Ilka T. De León](#), Executive Director of Build San Diego Foundation, or [Katie Hammock](#), AGC SD Vice President of Operations.

COMMITTEES / COUNCILS MEETINGS

MAY 2026

May 29 - **Construction Technology Committee** - 11:00 AM - *Virtual*

JUNE 2026

June 2 - **City of San Diego** - 9:00 AM @ *City CMFE Office*

June 3 - **Safety Committee** - 7:00 AM - *Lakeside*

June 11 - **Specialty Contractors' Council** - 11:30 AM - *Lakeside*

June 11 - **Construction Leadership Council (CLC) Sip 'N Social** - 5PM @ *The Golf Bar*

June 12 - **Caltrans/SANDAG Liaison** - 7:30 AM @ *Caltrans office (4050 Taylor Street)*

June 16 - **Affiliate Members' Council** - NOON - *Lakeside*

Committee Meeting
Calendar

Get Involved - Join a
Committee

EDUCATION / SAFETY TRAINING

MAY TRAINING SCHEDULE

Classes are held at our **Ferris Square** location in Sorrento Valley, our AGC Headquarters in **Lakeside**, or **online**.

May 19: **Excel Advanced Training** (*Ferris Square*)

May 20: **MS Project Professional: Beginning/Intermediate** (*Ferris Square*)

CLASS MOVED TO JUNE 3 & 4 May 20 & 21: **Construction Quality Management for Contractors (CQM-C)** - (*Online*)

May 21: **Microsoft Word Intermediate** (*Ferris Square*)

May 26: **Chat GPT/Copilot for MS 365 Intro** (*Ferris Square*)

May 27: **MS Project Professional: Intermediate/Advanced** (*Ferris Square*)

May 27: **Flagger Certification (Caltrans Approved)** (*Lakeside*)

May 27: **Traffic Control Technician (TCT)** (*Lakeside*)

May 28: Microsoft Word Advanced (*Ferris Square*)

May 28: Construction Law: Advanced Construction Contract Negotiations (*Lakeside*)

[DOWNLOAD MAY TRAINING SCHEDULE](#)

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About Monday Morning Quarterback

AGC San Diego Chapter's Monday Morning Quarterback is a "hot off the press" and to the point Monday morning briefing on the important issues facing San Diego's construction industry. It is prepared by AGC Chief Executive Officer, Eddie Sprecco, and Vice President Government & Industry Relations, Dustin Steiner.

Please contact [Eddie Sprecco](#) or [Dustin Steiner](#) with your comments, or with information that should be conveyed to the industry through this service. Well over 3,000 individuals employed by AGC member firms are part of this system.

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Disclaimer: Information and advice provided by AGC San Diego staff is general and not a substitute for legal counsel. Before applying any recommendations or policies to your business, consult a licensed attorney familiar with your specific circumstances.

AGC San Diego Chapter, Inc.

The **VOICE** of Construction

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