









2025 2026 ANNUAL REPORT

SEAOC
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

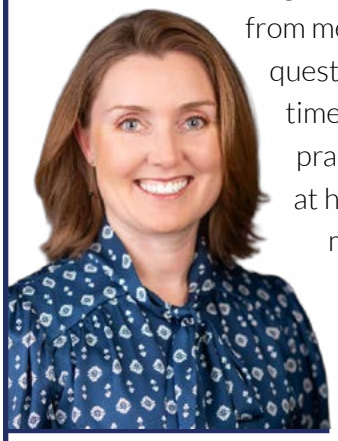
Empowering our members and Member Organizations to advance the people, practice, and position of structural engineering.

Letter from the President

"None of SEAOC's progress belongs to one person. It is made possible by the collective care and commitment of a community that believes our profession is worthy of sustained investment."

This has been a year of transition for SEAOC, and with that transition has come both responsibility and opportunity. We began the year with a clear recognition that our association must continue to evolve if it is to meet the needs of our members, strengthen our statewide voice, and support the future of structural engineering in California. That work has touched many parts of the organization, from the transition to a new Executive Director and staffing model, to the implementation of a statewide association management system, to the continued discussion around how SEAOC and our Member Organizations can best serve members in the years ahead.

Change is rarely simple, especially in an organization with such deep history, strong regional identity, and generations of volunteer leadership. Yet throughout this year, I have been continually reminded that SEAOC's strength has never come from structure alone. It comes from members who are willing to show up, ask thoughtful questions, share hard-earned experience, and invest their time in something larger than their own day-to-day practice. During a year that asked us to look carefully at how we operate, those same qualities have helped us move with purpose.



At the convention, we spent time reflecting on the question, "Why do we do what we do?" The answers were varied, but they pointed to a shared belief in service, community, safety, resilience, and professional connection. Those values have guided SEAOC through this transitional year. They remind us that modernization is not about changing for the sake of change; it is about creating the infrastructure, relationships, and clarity needed to better advance the people, practice, and position of structural engineering.

I am grateful to the Board of Directors, Member Organization leaders, committee chairs, staff, sponsors, and every member who contributed to this work during the past year. None of SEAOC's progress belongs to one person. It is made possible by the collective care and commitment of a community that believes our profession is worthy of sustained investment. As I close my term as President, I do so with deep appreciation for the trust placed in me, confidence in the leaders carrying this work forward, and optimism for the next chapter of SEAOC.

Kelsey Parolini
2025-26 SEAOC President

Table of Contents



02 Mission, Vision, and Values

03 Year at a Glance

04 Board Priority:
SEAOC Modernization

04 Board Priority:
Continuous Organizational Improvement

05 Board Priority:
Continuing Education

06 Board Priority:
Technical Resources

07 Board Priority:
Advocacy

08 Board Priority:
Membership

10 Board Priority:
Code Advisory Work

11 Annual Convention

12 Awards and Recognition

13 College of Fellows

14 Looking Ahead

15 Financial Update

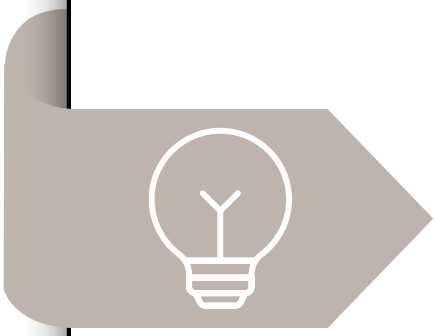
16 Leadership and Supporters

This report follows the focus areas the Board prioritized for the 2025-26 program year.



MISSION

Empower our members and Member Organizations to advance the people, practice, and position of structural engineering.



VISION

Structural engineers throughout California are valued as key influencers, expert resources, and innovative leaders in our profession and community.



VALUES

People

- Community for members
- Equity, inclusion, diversity, and engagement within the profession
- Openness, accessibility, and opportunity within the Association
- Inspiring future generations and emerging leaders

Practice

- Technical development and advancement of knowledge
- Structural engineering excellence
- Professional ethics and integrity
- Sustainability and resilience

Position

- Advocacy and promotion of the profession
- Collaboration and leadership with like-minded professional groups and agencies
- Relevance, growth, and stability of the Association

Year at a Glance

3,162 members of the statewide SEAOC community

✓ Hired SEAOC's first full-time staff

3 -year SEAOC Modernization plan approved by the board of directors February 27, 2026

8 California Building Code education sessions made available to membership

✓ Strengthened SEAOC's advocacy platform

Board Priority: SEAOC MODERNIZATION

2026 was the year the SEAOC Modernization moved from concept to an approved plan. On February 27, 2026, the Board adopted a three-year Modernization plan to bring SEAOC and its four Member Organizations into closer alignment, following months of work by a volunteer workgroup with leaders from across the state. That effort has since grown into dedicated groups on finance, governance, and communications, reflecting what the work actually needed.

Implementation is already visible. SEAOC now operates with two full-time employees, an Executive Director and a Director of Strategy and Operations, in place of an outside management company, and SEAOSC became the first Member Organization to move onto the shared membership platform. Updates reached members through the newsletter in November, December, February, April, and June, and a panel at the 2026 Convention brought Member Organization leaders together to discuss the work directly with attendees. Next up is a recommended governance model, due in spring 2027, and decisions on which services stay local at each Member Organization.

Thank you to the workgroup that drafted the Modernization plan: Kelsey Parolini, Ryan Kersting, Devon Lumbard, Ken O'Dell, Chad Closs, Emily Guglielmo, Don Schinske, and Krystinne Mica.



Board Priority: CONTINUOUS ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENT

SEAOC replaced its core technology this year. What began as a question about whether the old platform still met SEAOC's needs became a full migration to Novi, a shared association management system. SEAOC and SEAOSC are both live, with SEAOSC completing its move in May 2026, and the remaining Member Organizations are scheduled to follow. The migration also delivered a new website, a job board, and an accounting integration.

SEAOC formalized a memorandum of understanding with the Structural Engineering Society New Zealand (SESOC), continued its webinar partnership with NCSEA with the April Fire series, and worked in coalition with USGBC California on embodied carbon legislation. Behind the scenes, SEAOC built the foundations of a professionally run association: an Employee Handbook, a Cash Surplus Policy, board orientation training, and new banking and payroll partners.

Communications Committee

This year, the Communications Committee made progress on three key charges. The Committee continued to facilitate the SEE Awards Program at the state level and kicked off a new webinar series highlighting winning projects in an accessible format for all SEAOC members. Following the Venezuela earthquake, the Committee held productive discussions about the media resources that currently exist within SEAOC, which led to goals for new documents to be created in the coming year. Finally, much of the year was spent discussing SEAOC's approaching 100th anniversary. The Committee prepared a formal programming recommendation to the Board for this milestone, with event and content ideas centered on celebrating SEAOC's history, engaging new professionals, and gaining public visibility and recognition. The Committee hopes to develop these ideas further in the coming year.

Board Priority: CONTINUING EDUCATION

SEAOC delivered a full year of practice-advancing education, mostly as one-hour lunch webinars that members can fit into a workday.

Continuing Education Committee

The Continuing Education Committee focused this year on programming that helps members stay current with California practice. Its two-part series on the 2025 California Building Code and agency updates began with ASCE 7-22 seismic and nonstructural provisions and updates from HCAI and DSA, then moved into material-specific design for masonry, steel, mass timber, and wood. The Committee also partnered with the Sustainable Design Committee on a free three-part series on embodied carbon, co-hosted an Urban Wildfire Mitigation series with NCSEA, and recognized the 2025 SEE Award winners. Recordings from past sessions are available in the SEAOC Learning Center at seaoc.org/events-and-education.

In the coming year, the Committee will offer a six-part series on functional recovery and webinars on the Structural/Seismic Design Manual (SSDM) with NCSEA. SEAOC's new member platform also makes it possible to offer firm-level registration, PDH tracking across sessions, and on-demand webinars, and the Committee is working on how to bring those to members. Thank you to the committee members and speakers who shared their time and expertise with SEAOC members this year.

8 code update sessions

3 free embodied carbon webinars

6 -part functional recovery series coming

Board Priority: TECHNICAL RESOURCES

SEAOC built two resource hubs on its new website this year. The Learning Center (https://www.seaoc.org/events-and-education) brings together recorded webinars and links to partner libraries, and a curated resource list (https://www.seaoc.org/list-of-resources) serves both practicing engineers and the public, covering SEAOC publications, the Vulnerable Buildings fact sheet, the Seismic Design Tool, the 2025 California Building Code, and earthquake preparedness guidance. Every committee now has its own page on the site as a home for resources tied to its expertise. SEAOC also published all four volumes of the 2024 IBC Structural/Seismic Design Manual through its partnership with ICC, with companion webinars with NCSEA scheduled for November and December.

Sustainable Design Committee

The Sustainable Design Committee (SDC) completed a three-part embodied carbon webinar series covering the current state of the industry, common design and construction misconceptions, and resources available to engineers. The Committee also submitted comments on the latest draft of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) embodied carbon policy framework, along with signing on to a coalition letter in opposition to AB 1704, which was subsequently set aside in committee.

At the local level, the SEAOSC Sustainable Design Committee planned a highly successful full-day sustainability summit focused on the intersection of structural engineering and sustainability. The Committee also updated the SEAOC SDC webpage with additional resources.

Resilience Committee

The Resilience Committee completed a smooth leadership transition this year, with Jonathan Buckalew moving to past chair and Jakub Valigura joining Anna Lang as co-chair. With the soon-to-be-published NEHRP Seismic Provisions including Appendix A on design for functional recovery, the Committee updated its paper and presentation on implementation issues, which was presented at the 2026 SEAOC Convention.

Disaster Emergency Services Committee

The Disaster Emergency Services (DES) Committee had another productive year. It began in October 2025 with a leadership meeting between Cal OES and SEAOC to discuss prioritizing SEAOC Safety Assessment Program (SAP) evaluators for deployments, followed by Veoci training with Cal OES in November 2025. In March, the state chair and several members joined an Applied Technology Council (ATC) working group to improve and expand guidance for building evaluation.

The Committee is now helping Cal OES coordinate its annual statewide exercise, which takes place over three days on November 13, 16, and 17, with SEAOC SAP volunteers participating virtually or in person on November 17. Each Member Organization also hosted its own regional SAP training this year. Recruitment continues to focus on Central California and San Diego, while Northern and Southern California maintain healthy involvement. In the coming year, the Committee will work with the Board on how budgets can better support Safety Assessment Program deployments and search and rescue, and on improvements to how the Board facilitates SEAOC's statewide disaster response plan. The Committee is excited to continue helping lead the charge in disaster response.

2 resource hubs

4 SSDM volumes published

Board Priority: ADVOCACY





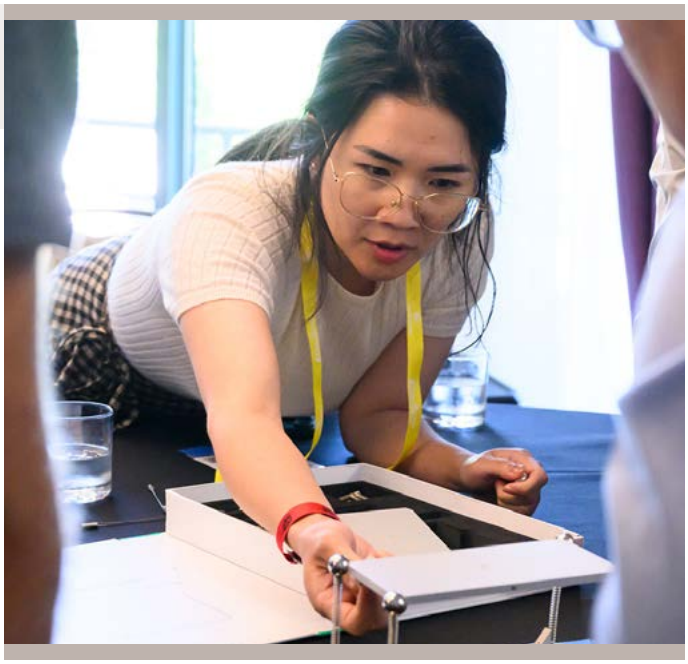
SEAOC's legislative presence grew this year, moving from tracking bills to shaping them. The association took formal positions on multiple bills, worked directly with authors' offices on amendment language, and built coalitions with aligned organizations. A new advocacy section on the website gives members one place to see where SEAOC stands, with a Statements and Positions page, an Advocacy Updates feed, and a Legislative Tracker.

Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee had an active 2025-26 session, tracking and engaging on bills that affect structural engineers and public safety across California. Its most significant work was on AB 1903 (Wicks), the construction defect reform bill, where committee members worked with the author's office to replace a damage-based trigger for structural defect claims with objective standards tied to the building code. The bill stalled at the end of session, but SEAOC's technical work is ready for when these standards are taken up again. The Committee also supported AB 2106 (certificate of merit), opposed AB 2131 (hospital seismic safety), joined USGBC-CA in opposing AB 1704 (embodied carbon), negotiated amendments on AB 1796 (interior design licensure), and worked with Assemblymember Zbur's office on AB 1693 (retail tenant improvements) until the self-certification language was removed.

Beyond individual bills, SEAOC built a more consistent presence in statewide policy work. SEAOC attended every meeting of the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists (BPELSG) this year and participates in the ACEC Advocacy Committee and the ICC-led Building Safety Committee. Members can follow this work at https://www.seaoc.org/advocacy, which includes position statements, updates, and a legislative tracker. Looking ahead, the Committee is planning SEAOC's first legislative visit day for early next year. Thank you to chair Devon Lumbard and to every committee member who reviewed language, joined calls, and helped SEAOC show up as a trusted technical voice in Sacramento.

Board Priority: MEMBERSHIP



For the first time, SEAOC can see its whole membership in one place. The platform migration converted data from all four Member Organizations and established a statewide baseline of 3,162 members, a common foundation for retention and engagement planning. The platform can also follow a member from student, through their career regardless of where they reside across the state. These records support the next generation work discussed below.

Next Generation and Student Outreach



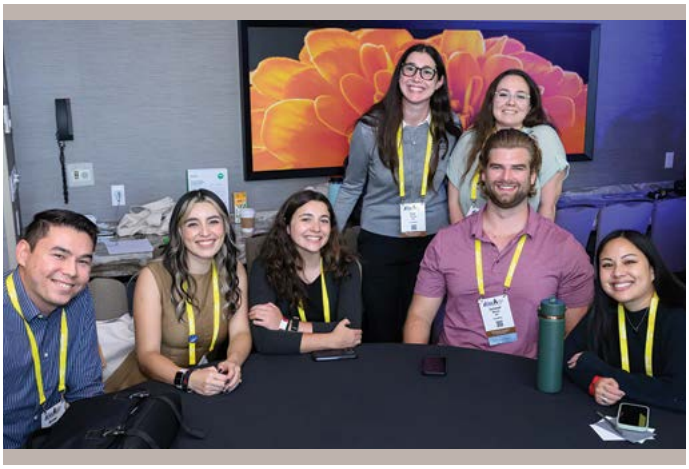
Student Outreach Committee

The 2025-26 year marked an important milestone for student engagement within SEAOC with the successful formation of the SEAOC Student Outreach Committee as a state-level committee. This achievement established a formal framework for collaboration among the Member Organizations and created a unified approach to student engagement across California. With representation from each Member Organization, the Committee focused on strengthening connections between students, Member Organizations, and SEAOC while promoting greater consistency in outreach efforts statewide. Bi-monthly meetings provided a forum for sharing successful programs, lessons learned, and new ideas, supported by a centralized Basecamp resource library containing event materials, best practices for different grade levels, and resources from across the state.



Throughout the year, the Committee brainstormed and developed initiatives to increase student participation in SEAOC and to strengthen the transition from student life to professional practice. Efforts ranged from supporting the creation and growth of local university chapters to expanding opportunities for student involvement at the SEAOC Convention. A highlight of the year was sponsoring two student chapter leaders to attend the convention, where

the Committee also piloted two student-focused competitions: a hands-on team activity using MOLA kits and a SEAOC-themed crossword challenge. Both were well received and provided valuable feedback for future programming. While several initiatives remain in development, the Committee established a strong foundation for future growth and coordination, helping SEAOC attract, engage, and retain the next generation of structural engineers.



SE Pathways Committee

This year, the SEAOC SE Pathways Committee hosted the Pathways cohort at the 2026 Convention. The diverse cohort included 38 emerging engineers from across the state, both students and early career professionals. The Committee organized and hosted a welcome reception on Wednesday evening for participants and their mentors, a cohort breakfast to kick off the convention sessions, and four Pathways-specific sessions covering topics such as DEI efforts in the industry, navigating the early years of an SE career, and finding their passion within the profession through various career routes. These events gave the cohort opportunities to connect with one another and with mentors, learn more about the industry and SEAOC, and have fun along the way.



In addition to hosting the cohort, the Committee worked with the SEAOC Board and the Executive Director to formalize its annual budget, and worked throughout the year to find alignment and synergy across outreach, social media, and sponsorship efforts.

Board Priority: CODE ADVISORY WORK

SEAOC committees keep putting practicing engineers' expertise into the codes California works under.

Existing Buildings Committee

The Existing Buildings Committee contributed to the 2027 International Existing Building Code (IEBC) Commentary, providing updates to Appendices A1 through A4 that bring the language in line with advances in the referenced standards. The Committee also recommended clarifications to the "10% trigger" criteria in IEBC Section 503.4, making clear that only governing demand-capacity ratios should be evaluated when applying the section's exceptions, and to Exception 2 of that section, confirming that the exception for light rooftop equipment applies only to elements of the primary lateral force resisting system.

Beyond the IEBC, committee members provided suggestions and edits on a change proposal for the 2028 California Historical Building Code and offered feedback and support to local Member Organizations on mandatory seismic retrofit initiatives in jurisdictions across California.

Seismology Committee

The Seismology Committee is nearing completion of a new design guide on the incorporation of base isolation and dampers, with publication expected by the end of the year and webinars to follow soon after. The committee has also continued to respond to ballot proposals for the PUC, helping inform the future of the CBC.



Annual Convention

CONVENTION 2026
SCOTTSDALE
ARIZONA
CELEBRATING THE WHY THAT DRIVES US

The 2026 Convention at the Grand Hyatt Scottsdale, August 26 to 28, took as its theme "Celebrating the Why that Drives Us," and members spent the week exploring what draws them to structural engineering: the technical challenge and lifelong learning, service to communities, the relationships built along the way, and the opportunities the profession creates for engineers and their families. The opening keynote, Engineers at Ground Zero, shared a SEAoNY-produced documentary on structural engineers' work after September 11th, followed by a live Q&A. A members panel let Member Organization leaders discuss the Modernization directly with attendees, the Pathways cohort and two sponsored student chapter leaders joined the program, and the SEE Awards and College of Fellows induction recognized colleagues from across the state. SEAOC also welcomed members of the Structural Engineers Association of Arizona and held a joint board meeting with NCSEA. Across every session and conversation, the week was a reminder that the people in this profession, and the reasons they show up, are what make SEAOC strong. Next year's convention moves to Monterey, CA from August 25 to 27, 2027.









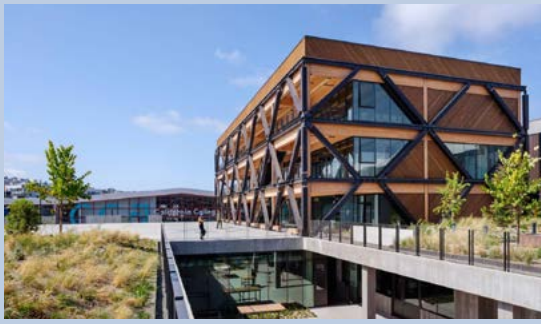
Awards and Recognition

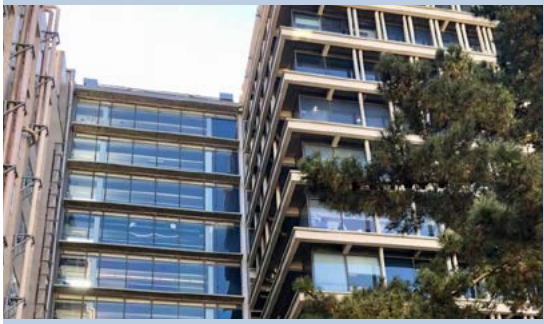
The SEE Awards work in two stages. Each Member Organization runs its own regional awards, and regional Excellence winners advance to the state program, where a State SEE Award Committee selects the statewide winners. This year's winners were celebrated at the convention ceremony, presented by Maria Mohammed and Ken O'Dell. This year's winners can be found on the SEAOC SEE Awards page: https://www.seaoc.org/structural-engineering-excellence-see-awards.













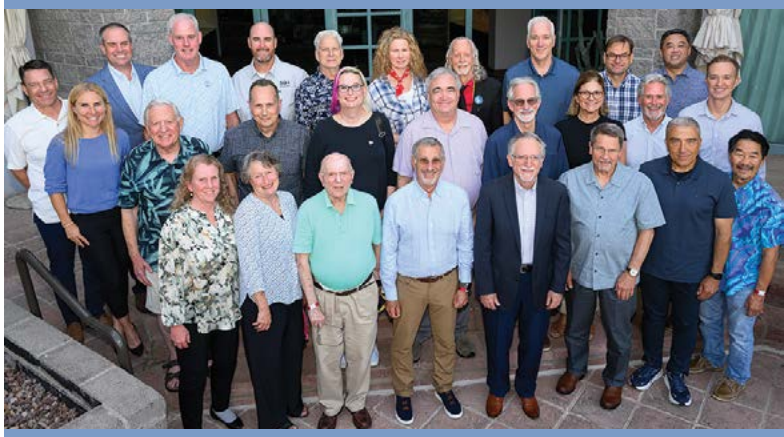




College of Fellows

Founded in 1994, the SEAOC College of Fellows recognizes structural engineers whose careers reflect exceptional contributions to the profession and to society. Fellows work to elevate the profession by promoting ethics and best practices, advancing codes and standards, collaborating with policymakers on resilient communities, and supporting strong educational pathways for future engineers. They also celebrate achievement and service, encourage volunteerism and philanthropy, and invest in the next generation through mentorship, including an ongoing partnership with the Young Member Forum that pairs Fellows with early career engineers.







Leadership Transition. Kelly Cobeen, SE, FSEAOC, completed her tenure as Dean of the College of Fellows this year. Under her leadership, the College saw stronger engagement and communication among Fellows, welcomed newly elected members, and honored the legacies of Fellows who passed away. At the annual Fellows meeting during the 2026 SEAOC Convention in Scottsdale, she passed the gavel to newly elected Dean Chris Tokas, SE, FSEAOC.

Fellows Scholarship Fund. The endowed Fellows Scholarship Fund provides financial support, mentorship, and internship opportunities to students pursuing structural engineering at accredited community colleges and four-year universities. This year's recipient, Alex Valdes, is an undergraduate at UC Davis majoring in civil engineering with a structural concentration. Kelly Cobeen and Fred Turner, SE, FSEAOC, will present a commemorative plaque to the recipient this fall.

Gifts to the fund directly expand access to structural engineering education. To donate, visit https://www.seaoc.org/products/college-of-fellows.

Looking Ahead

FALL 2026

- SEAOCC and SEAOSD will join the shared AMS platform
- Six-part functional recovery series

NOV | DEC 2026

- SSDM webinars with NCSEA

JAN | 2027

- SEAOC's first legislative visit day
- SEAONC will join the shared AMS platform

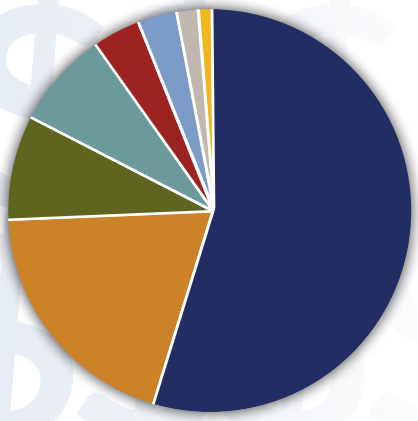
SPRING 2027

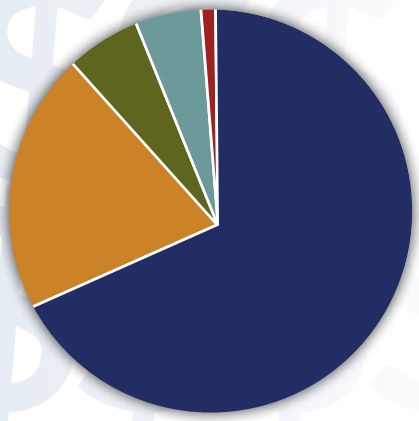
- Follow up four-part functional recovery series

AUG 25-27 | 2027

- Monterey convention

Financial Update





USE OF FUNDS FY2025-26

Convention	55%	($690,886)
Staff	20%	($247,487)
Executive Office	8%	($105,219)
Continuing ed & publications	7%	($98,360)
Member organizations	4%	($48,280)
Board of Directors	3%	($37,776)
SEAOC Modernization	2%	($21,815)
Committees, insurance and filings	1%	($14,046)

FUNDING SOURCES FY2025-26

Convention	68%	($772,979)
Dues	20%	($230,475)
Webinars	6%	($63,591)
Investment income	5%	($53,991)
Publications & other	1%	($13,598)

SEAOC closed the 2025-26 fiscal year with a strong balance sheet, ending September 30 with $1.28 million in total assets and $633,471 in investment reserves.

General Fund expenses closed at 99% of budget in a year of significant organizational growth, which included building SEAOC's first staff team and beginning the SEAOC Modernization. These investments, along with production costs for the 2024 SSDM, account for the year's net result of ($129,235). The SSDM is expected to generate revenue when it is published in FY27, and SEAOC enters the new year with reserves in place to continue its work.

$1.28M total assets

$633K in investment reserves

138% of budget for webinar revenue ($63,591)

Leadership and Supporters

Staff:

Krystinne Mica, CAE, *Executive Director*
Selena Silva-Ortega, *Director of Strategy and Operations*
Amy Kirson, *Event Manager*
Theresa Jorgens, *Event Contractor*

2025-26 Board of Directors:

Kelsey Parolini, *President*
Devon Lumbard, *Vice President*
Wayne Low, *Treasurer*
Steven Crook, *Past President*
SEAOCC: Laura Rice, Sonia Eliseo
SEAONC: David Ojala, Joyce Feng, Lisa Cassedy
SEAOSC: Garrett Mills, Maria Mohammed, Dan Fox
SEAOSD: Stephen Kerr, Jeremy Callister

2025-26 Committee Chairs

Meaghan Halligan, *Communications Committee Chair, Wind Committee Chair*
Mason Thao, *Communications Committee Vice Chair*
Bernard Cruz, *Continuing Education Committee Chair*
Tim Kaucher, *Convention Committee Chair*
Lorena Arce, *Convention Committee Chair*
Stefanie Rae Arizabal, *Disaster Emergency Services Committee Chair*
Russell McLellan, *Existing Buildings Committee Chair*
Doug Mayer, *Existing Buildings Committee Co-Chair*
Devon Lumbard, *Legislative Committee Chair*
Michael Parolini, *Licensure Committee Chair*
Anna Lang, *Resilience Committee Co-Chair*
Jakub Valigura, *Resilience Committee Co-Chair*
Kimberly Guzman, *SE Pathways Committee Co-Chair*
Zachariah Bettner, *SE Pathways Committee Co-Chair*
Gabriel Acero, *Seismology Committee Chair*
Rachel Leung, *Seismology Committee Vice Chair*
Rachelle Habchi, *Sustainable Design Committee Chair*
Megan Vandervort, *Student Outreach Committee Chair*

Sponsors and Supporters:

CSI – *Anchor Sponsor*
Bryson Financial, AISC, ASDEA S.r.l., Buehler, Cal Capitol Group, Clark Pacific, Degenkolb Engineers, Fyfe- Henkel Corporation, Gallagher, ISAAC, New Millennium, Risha Engineering, Seismic Bracing Company, Simpson Strong-Tie, Structural Intelligence

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

FISCAL YEAR:
OCTOBER 1, 2025 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

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QUICK LINK: TABLE OF CONTENTS