

Measured Optimism for Construction

The construction industry is signaling that industry conditions may begin to improve over the next 12 to 18 months, according to a survey in the *Engineering News-Record* (ENR) magazine and on ENR.com, published by McGraw-Hill Construction. The ENR Construction Industry Confidence Index (CICI) for the first quarter of 2010 shows that construction and design firm executives are not confident that the industry recession will end in 2010, but a slow and steady recovery is expected into 2011.

The index is based on 705 responses to surveys sent to more than 2,000 domestic firms on ENR's lists of leading contractors and engineering firms.

When assessing the construction market, 68% of survey respondents say the current construction market is declining, 26% believe it has stabilized, and only 5% believe it is improving. However, survey respondents expect the picture to be different in 12 to 18 months, with 44% believing the construction market will be improving and another 44% believing it will have stabilized.

"ENR's CICI provides

strong indicators for what is going on in the construction industry," said Janice L. Tuchman, editor-in-chief of *Engineering News-Record*. *"What we are seeing is an optimistic outlook for a continued recovery. Of course it varies by sector, and there are clear winners and losers in today's market—the infrastructure, power and healthcare sectors remain strong, while there is less confidence in nonresidential building of offices, stores, hotels, and manufacturing—but overall, this year and next year, the industry will stabilize."*

The CICI survey also asked participants to gauge changes in credit availability for financing projects, and found that securing financing continues to be a challenge. No respondents claimed that credit is much easier to obtain, and only 7.2% of respondents said it was somewhat easier to obtain. In contrast, 28.9% said it is much tougher to secure credit for project financing; 21.8% said that it is only somewhat tougher to obtain; and 42% said that credit availability is about the same.

The next quarterly survey results will be available next month in June 2010.

Member News

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Two leading healthcare construction firms have joined forces to launch **Moss Miller Healthcare**, a unique company designed to meet the growing demand for hospitals, clinics and research institutions across the state of Florida.

"The economy has kept the lid on Florida healthcare work, but with construction costs lower than they've been since the 1980s, we're beginning to see requests for significant hospital projects," said Joe Harris, Executive Vice President of the new company. "As hospitals' financial investments recover, we expect the flow of projects will accelerate," he added.

A new chiller plant constructed by **State Contracting and Engineering Corporation** (SCEC) at Pine Crest Preparatory School in Fort Lauderdale has achieved the city's first LEED Gold Certification for New Construction from the U.S. Green Building Council.

The chiller plant project was designed to greatly improve the energy efficiency of the school's 50-acre Ft. Lauderdale campus as the school strives to green its facilities. It is Pine Crest School's first LEED certified building.

Among the project's sustainable elements are two rainwater cisterns, a photovoltaic system, and a chemical-free termite protection system. The two 4,900-gallon steel cisterns use rainwater collected from the roof to irrigate the plants and trees surrounding the building via drip irrigation.



Pine Crest Chiller Plant

Civil, Traffic and Environmental Engineering

Each month Construction FOCUS features a CASF member company, selected by drawing a business card from among those attending the monthly networking breakfast. The next breakfast, sponsored by Balfour Beatty Construction, will be held on Thursday, May 20, 7:30 a.m. at the Embassy Suites - Boca Raton off Yamato Road.

Langan Engineering & Environmental is a full-service Civil Engineering firm with approximately five hundred employees, twelve offices in the United States, two offices in the Middle East, and one in Greece. Langan was founded in 1970 as a geotechnical engineering firm, but soon expanded its services to

LANGAN
ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

include site/civil land development, traffic, and environmental engineering.

Today, Langan's services include: natural resources assessment permitting, asbestos surveys, mold/mildew studies, air-quality monitoring, dewatering consultation and permitting, preconstruction condition surveys, and quality control field inspections during construction.

In addition, Langan has become an integral part of design teams responsible

for achieving LEED certification in new construction.

Their technical disciplines help secure critical LEED points in categories ranging from sustainable sites to water efficiency and innovative design, among others. Moreover, Langan's internal "Green Team" efforts have resulted in progressive sustainable practices in all firm locations and the LEED AP certification of more than 125 Langan professionals. Their commitment to sustainability, notable green projects, and diverse engineering and environmental capabilities helped ENR magazine rank Langan among its top 30 "Green Design" firms.

Langan's staff of highly trained field professionals approach design challenges with a combination of technical knowledge, practical experience, and innovative solutions, resulting in their

40-year premier reputation. Langan serves both public and private sector clients, and have earned more than 40 major awards for engineering excellence and technical innovation, as recognized by the American Council of Engineering Companies. Langan's technical knowledge and practical experience have resulted in their clients saving millions of dollars on their projects. Some of their prestigious clients/projects include: The Miami Dolphins, American Airlines Arena, BMW of North America, Doral Golf Resort and Spa, Hertz Corporation, Macy's, Target, Walmart, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the United Nations.

On an interesting note, Langan possesses strong relationships with federal, state, and local regulators through their experience in more than 1,000 wetland and permitting projects. Langan's ability to identify critical natural resource issues early in the design process and their in-depth knowledge of regulatory programs and policies result in an expedited application and approval process. A few of these services include: environmental assessments and impact statements, wetland delineation and functional assessments, wetland mitigation design and banking, land use planning and permitting, stream restoration and bioengineering, as well as, wildlife habitat assessment and surveys.

In South Florida, Langan is located at 15150 NW 79th Court - STE 200, Miami Lakes, FL 33016. For more information, call 786-264-7200, or go to <http://www.langan.com>.

CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION of South Florida

2929 North West 62nd Street, Ft. Lauderdale, FL., 33309

Phone: 954-974-6333; FAX: 954-974-6633

info@casf.org

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Construction Focus is the official publication of the Construction Association of South Florida. Article suggestions and submissions for publication consideration should be forwarded to the Executive Vice President.

Higher Taxes, Fewer Jobs, More Lawsuits

Amendment 4—a statewide “Vote on Everything” initiative—is a grave threat to Florida’s future. This proposed rewrite of the Florida Constitution will imperil Florida’s economy and unique quality-of-life.

The amendment subverts a well-established and democratic planning process while threatening Florida’s prospects for economic recovery. With the “Vote on Everything” amendment, citizens—not the representatives they elected—are forced to regularly decide hundreds of technical land-use planning issues at the ballot box. Much is at stake for all Floridians:

- ♦ The disruption to the daily lives of Floridians will be extraordinary. Taxpayers will be required to fund elections for each proposed comprehensive plan change – not just major projects, but even minor technical details. It will not be unusual for the voters to face 200 to 300 comprehensive plan changes every year. In the last four years alone, this amendment would have required an average of over 10,000 additional local referenda per year in Florida. According to a review of state records, if Amendment 4 had been law in 2006, the residents of Carrabelle, a small Franklin County town, would have voted 617 times!
- ♦ The disorder will further disenfranchise Florida’s electorate. Voters will be deluged with highly technical background materials prepared by local gov-

ernment planning staff. The legalese of proposed comprehensive plan changes, often puzzling for expert engineers and attorneys, will further dampen voter turnout. Lines at voting booths will grow as Floridians attempt the virtual impossibility of voting on hundreds of separate and often confusing ballot questions.

- ♦ The cost to Florida taxpayers will be astronomical. Every city and county in Florida will be burdened with the time and cost of holding additional elections to vote on proposed changes to comprehensive land use plans. The Orlando Sentinel notes that these costs would “soar into the millions.” And in these difficult economic times, local taxpayers will have to pick up the bill.
- ♦ The result will be a system that is far worse, not better. That’s why respected environmental leaders refuse to support the amendment. They know this proposal will transform every planning decision into a political campaign, thereby encouraging sprawl and making smarter growth impossible. The “Vote on Everything” amendment has already been a disaster in St. Pete Beach—the small Pinellas County town that adopted a local version of this proposal in 2006. Since then, residents have suffered through endless litigation, which has caused costs to spiral out of control and turned St. Pete

Beach into a battleground for out-of-town lawyers and special interest groups.

Now, this amendment threatens to go state-wide.

Amendment 4 will appear on the November, 2010 ballot. Citizens for Lower Taxes and a Stronger Economy leads opposition to this measure. To date, more than 200 organizations throughout Florida have opposed **Amendment 4**. More join the fight every day.

Of all the industries in Florida, construction will be hit the hardest with the passing of this Amendment. While the South Florida economy struggles to revive, this legislation alone will bring it to its knees with little hope of recovery. As employers, we need to educate our employees to the toxic effects that this Amendment will have on their jobs. No work, No JOBS, it is that simple. Every vote counts.

For more information go to <http://www.florida2010.org>.



April 15 - Bonding & Surety Breakfast FORUM
Panel: (l to r) Stephen H. Reisman, Peckar & Abramson, P.C.; David R. Hoover, Nielson & Company; Scott Trethewey, Moss & Associates and Nathan L. Omodt, The Travelers Companies

3rd Annual Construction Safety Conference

Friday, April 23, 2010



ROUTE 10:

3500 NW 9TH AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33309

CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH FLORIDA

