

# IN THE PIPELINE

## NUCA OF NM NEWS

### August 2008

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#### Sign Up

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Get the most from your association:

**GET INVOLVED!**



**by Boyd Dunham**

The upcoming legislative special session starts on August 15, 2008. According to a press release from the Governor's office on July 17th, "the main focus of the special session will be the "CARE" package which stands for Cash Assistant Relief Effort and focuses on expanding health care coverage and giving New Mexicans \$210.6 million relief from high gas prices." Included in this package is: Cost of Living Tax Rebate; Tax Holiday for the Holidays; Expanded Back-to- School Tax Holiday; Increase Working Families Tax Credit; Increase Eligibility for Child Care Assistance; and Energy Assistance; and School Bus Fuel Assistance. NUCA of NM Lobbyist, Carla Sonntag, will be monitoring the special session closely for Health Care Legislation. Also, although not initially announced in the July 17, 2008 press release, the Transportation Committee will be attempting to move money into the current roads fund budget during this special session. Watch your email box for updates throughout the Special Session.

There are a couple of significant dates coming up in the next couple of months. I'd like to personally invite you all to attend the next Membership Meeting on August 21, 2008. NUCA President Terry Dillon and NUCA CEO Bill Hillman are flying into New Mexico to attend this meeting and talk to you about NUCA and national issues. Randy Clark, Holly Asphalt, is also going to speak briefly about the AC Oil issues. You can register online for this lunch meeting 11:30 - 1:00pm. Also, NUCA of NM's annual golf Tournament, Last Ditch Open, is scheduled for September 19, 2008, and will be played at Isleta Eagle Golf Course - 12:30 shotgun. Register now, as there is a maximum number of players for the tournament. If you can't get out to play golf at the Last Ditch Open, how about you support the Association with a hole sponsorship for only \$350?



Construction Reporter is proud to announce its membership in National Utility Contractors Association of New Mexico, and we are excited to offer a 10% discount to all NUCA of NM members!

- If you already subscribe to Construction Reporter, thank you for your business. You will receive the discount on your next renewal.
- If you are not a member yet, we have a free two week trial membership. You will receive the 10% discount on your first invoice.

We are a locally owned and operated planroom in business since 1949. Our website offers continuously updated information on commercial projects in New Mexico, west Texas, eastern Arizona, and Colorado. Our staff includes two full time reporters who make sure we have all the projects--and that we have them early.

Please visit our website and online planroom at [www.constructionreporter.com](http://www.constructionreporter.com), and stop by our spacious physical planroom at 1609 2nd St. NW.



By Carla Sonntag  
NUCA of NM Lobbyist

Part II of the two part series on **Identity Theft**.  
If you would like to read Part I, you can read July 08's newsletter by clicking [HERE](#)

### Identity Theft

by Carla J. Sonntag  
with information provided by Senator Lee Rawson, NM Senate District 37

#### 1. What you can do to help **PREVENT** your identity from being stolen:

- a. You may consider "freezing" your credit. (subject of last month's article)
- b. There are a number of on-line companies which charge a monthly fee to prevent identity theft. (lifelock.com, freecreditreport.com, and others)
- c. Remember the word SCAM:
  - S** Be stingy about giving out your personal information to others unless you have a reason to trust them, regardless of where you are.
  - C** Check your financial information regularly, and look for what should be there and what shouldn't.
  - A** Ask periodically for a copy of your credit report.
  - M** Maintain careful records of your banking and financial accounts.
- d. Maintain vigilance.
  - i. Guard your social security number. Don't carry your SSN card; leave it in a secure place. Request an alternative personal identification number be used when ever possible.
  - ii. Place passwords on your credit card, bank, and phone accounts. Avoid using easily available information like your mother's maiden name, your birth date, the last four digits of your SSN or your phone number, or a series of consecutive numbers.
  - iii. Don't give out personal information on the phone, through the mail, or on the Internet unless you've initiated the contact or are sure you know who's getting your information.
  - iv. Deposit your outgoing mail in post office collection boxes or at your local post office, rather than in an unsecured mailbox. Promptly remove mail from your mailbox. If you're planning to be away from home and can't pick up your mail, call the U.S. Postal Service at 1-800-275-8777 to request a vacation hold. The Postal Service will hold your mail at your local post office until you can pick it up or are home to receive it.
  - v. To thwart an identity thief who may pick through your trash or recycling bins to capture your personal information, tear or shred your charge receipts, copies of credit applications, insurance

forms, physician statements, checks and bank statements, expired charge cards that you're discarding, and credit offers you get in the mail. To opt out of receiving offers of credit in the mail, call: 1-888- 5-OPTOUT (1-888-567-8688). The three nationwide consumer reporting companies use the same toll-free number to let consumers choose not to receive credit offers based on their lists. Note: You will be asked to provide your SSN which the consumer reporting companies need to match you with your file.

vi. When ordering new checks, pick them up from the bank instead of having them mailed to your home mailbox.

## 2. What you can do to PROTECT yourself before your identity has been stolen:

**a.** Many Homeowner Insurance policies provide coverage for identity theft. You may want to check your policy for this coverage. If it is not included, you may be able to have it added as an endorsement. This coverage usually only reimburses you for the cost of remedy and any actual damages limited by the policy declaration.

**b.** Prepaid Legal Companies also provide coverage. They will usually resolve the problem and clean up your credit, acting in your behalf. These companies typically charge a monthly fee. Employers can also receive group rates for this coverage.

**c.** There are a number of on-line companies, which charge a monthly fee to assist you once your identity has been stolen. (Nationwide.com and others)

The next NUCA of NM Membership meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2008.

The 2008 NUCA President, Terry Dillon, and NUCA CEO Bill Hillman will be in attendance for this meeting.

Randy Clark, Holly Asphalt, will also speak on the current situation with asphalt cement oil.

Date: August 21, 2008

Time: 11:30am - 1:00pm

Place: Albuquerque Country Club - 601 Laguna Blvd SW

Bring a potential new member, and NUCA of NM will buy your lunch!

You can register online at [www.nucanm.org/event.html](http://www.nucanm.org/event.html)

The Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA) will have Bond Authorization on the November 2008 Ballot.

Passage of the 2008 AMAFCA Bond Question will not raise taxes but does allocate \$20,000,000 in Anticipated Projects

To see a list of the Anticipated Projects for Funding from the November 2008 Bond Authorization [Click Here](#)

To see AMAFCA Fiscal Year 2008 Project Schedule [Click Here](#)

On behalf of its members, NUCA of NM has contributed to the AMAFCA Bond Committee to assist in the cost of promoting the passage of the AMAFCA Bond in November 2008.



The only Damage Prevention Convention in New Mexico geared towards contractors is being held at the Albuquerque Convention Center September 24 - 26, 2008.

Classes:

- APWA Marking Standards
- Competent Person Trench & Excavation\*\*
- Crisis Management
- Excavator's Certification All-Day Class, presented by Staking University\*\*
- Gas Valve Maintenance
- NMOC Excavator's Class
- NTSB class, presented by Wayne St. Germain
- The Next Step, presented by NUCA of NM
- Ticket Management Systems
- Trench Rescue
- Weapons of Mass Destruction Awareness
- What to do if you hit a line
- Wide Area Locates

\*Classes subject to change without notice \*\*All-day certification class, extra charge

Pillar Sponsors include:

AUI Inc.  
Conoco Phillips  
El Paso Natural Gas  
NM One Call  
NUCA of NM  
PNM  
Qwest  
Transwestern Pipeline Company  
Western refining Pipeline Company  
Williams

Exhibitor and Participant Registration Forms now Available. [Click here to Register](#)

Individual Registration \$175 per person and includes name badge, all conference classes (except where additional fees are noted) and all meals including the Meet & Greet Fiesta

Exhibitor BASIC: \$575 includes one (1) 10'x10' booth w/pipe & drape; demo space; table & chairs; one (1) name badge and entry to all Conference Classes\* offered on Sept. 25 and 26, 2008 (except classes that require additional fees); all meals offered at Conference, including Grand Opening Fiesta.

**Learn More...**



Thank you TLC Plumbing & Utility for your Platinum Sponsorship.

**Visit TLC Plumbing & Utility's Web Page**

2008 Sponsors:

- TLC Plumbing & Utility
- Western Summit of NM
- Albuquerque Asphalt Inc.
- AUI Inc.
- Tom Growney Equipment
- New Concepts Inc.
- Triad Builders of NM
- AMEC
- Hydro-Systems Inc.
- Western States Insurance
- HD Supply Waterworks

- 08/13/08 Safety Committee 8am
- 08/14/08 Last Ditch Open Planning Committee 8am
- 08/14/08 Planning Committee 8:30am
- 08/14/08 Education Committee 3pm
- 08/21/08 Board of Directors Meeting.
- 08/21/08 Membership Meeting [Click Here to Register Online](#)

If you would like more information on the Committees or other meetings, please call the Association office at 505 888 0752 or email [nucanm@nucanm.org](mailto:nucanm@nucanm.org)

NUCA of NM Committees are open to all members, and all committee meetings are held at the Association office unless otherwise noted.

**Visit the NUCA of NM Quick View Calendar**



About a month ago, you may have received a request to take a survey regarding the Economic Stimulus Act, which, among other things, reinstated the depreciation bonus and temporarily increased Sec. 179 expensing levels to stimulate business purchasing.

As a result of that survey, NUCA, along with Associated Equipment Dealers (AED) produced a survey report called, "Economic Stimulus Act Having Positive Effect, But Additional Stimulus Needed."

The report was subsequently presented to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

The Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Rep.

James L. Oberstar (Minn.), issued the following statement in response to the report release by the Associated Equipment Distributors (AED) and National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA).

"Investment in our nation's infrastructure has been one of my top priorities for the 110th Congress. The AED-NUCA study demonstrates why infrastructure investment is so important. Not only does investing in sewers and other related water infrastructure protect the environmental and public health, it is also beneficial to our nation's economic health by creating jobs, which prompts contractors to buy equipment and leads to additional economic activity. I agree with the report's conclusion that Congress needs to do more help get the economy back on track, and investment in our nation's water infrastructure should be high on that list. The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will continue to promote improving and upgrading the nation's water infrastructure."

Click here for the complete [Survey Report](#) and the joint [<>NUCA/AED press release summarizing the findings.](#)



Thank you Western Summit of NM for your Platinum Sponsorship.  
**Visit the Western Summit Web Page**

#### **NUCA FALL BOARD MEETING REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

NUCA Fall Board & Committee Meetings. These important association business meetings--which are open to all NUCA members--will be held October 8-10 at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana

[Click Here for Registration Information](#)

[Click Here for Online Registration](#)

**PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE**  
**NUCA Fall Board and Committee Meetings**  
**October 8 - 10, 2008**  
**Indianapolis, Indiana**

#### **Wednesday October 8**

Registration	12:30 - 5:30 pm
Administrative Committee*	1:00 - 3:00 pm
Executive Committee*	3:30 - 5:00 pm
Welcome Reception	7:00 - 10:00 pm

#### **Thursday October 9**

Registration	7:00am - 3:30pm
Continental Breakfast	7:00am - 9:00 am
Opening General Session	7:30 - 8:15 am
Awards Committee*	8:30 - 9:45 am

Trenchless Technology Committee	8:30 - 9:45 am
Site Development Forum	8:30 - 9:45 am
Education Committee	10:00 - 11:30 am
Political Action Committee	10:00 - 11:30am
Buffet Lunch	11:30 - 1:00 pm
Nominating Committee*	12:45 - 2:00 pm
Associate Directors Council	12:45 - 2:00 pm
Treatment Plant Forum	2:15 - 3:30 pm
Executive Directors Council	2:15 - 3:30 pm
Damage Prevention Committee	2:15 - 3:30pm
EXPO '09 Host Committee	3:45 - 5:15 pm
Safety & Risk Management	3:45 - 5:15 pm
Foundation Board*	3:45 - 5:15 pm

### **Friday October 10**

Registration	7:00 - 11:00 am
Continental Breakfast	7:00 - 9:30 am
Government Relations Committee	7:30 - 9:00 am
Contract Documents & Specifications	7:30 - 9:00 am
Member & Chapter Relations	7:30 - 9:00 am
Executive Committee*	9:15 - 9:45 am
Board of Directors Meeting	10:15 - 11:15 am

> \* *Committee Members Only*



#### **House Moves to Provide "Fix" for HTF Shortfall**

On Wednesday, July 25, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed H.R. 6532, a stand-alone bill that would reimburse the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) for the \$8 billion in surplus funds transferred from it to the federal General Fund by the 1998 surface transportation reauthorization law TEA-21. The House approved the measure 387-37, which was substantially more than the two-thirds majority required to override the threatened presidential veto. The latest official Highway Trust Fund revenue projections for FY 2009 are \$3.7 billion below what was anticipated when the 2005 transportation reauthorization law (SAFETEA-LU) was enacted. If the potential revenue shortfall is left unaddressed, the result could be a significant cut in each state's federal highway funding and the loss of some half a million American jobs. The Senate is expected to take up its own HTF fix legislation this week as part of a larger package that would extend some expiring tax breaks.

#### **NUCA/CWC Organize Water Infrastructure Briefing on Capitol Hill**

This week, NUCA and the Clean Water Council (CWC) helped organize a briefing on water infrastructure issues on Capitol Hill. The event, which was sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Chamber Foundation, brought together Congressional staff, industry representatives and the media to discuss America's deteriorating water infrastructure and its

potential impact on U.S. competitiveness in the global market if action is not taken. The briefing highlighted the need for new sources of revenue to repair the aging infrastructure. Although several proposals regarding public financing (e.g., SRF) were made, the discussion focused mainly on increasing the opportunities for private investment in the water infrastructure market. Along with the Chamber, speakers included a representative from the office of Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Oregon), U.S. Conference of Mayors, the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. During his concluding remarks, the Chamber's representative recognized "the Clean Water Council for their help in organizing this important event." NUCA is happy to see the Chamber engage in the water infrastructure debate, and we look forward to working with them again on similar efforts in the future.

Does your company have a web page?

Have you been wondering if you're the only company not out there on the web? As a NUCA of NM, you can have a web page created and hosted at a discount rate.

For more information on creating your web page, call the Association office at 505 888 0752.



Sponsored by: HIGHWAY SUPPLY

NUCA of NM Annual Golf Tournament, Last Ditch Open, is scheduled for September 19, 2008 at the beautiful Isleta Eagle golf course.

Sponsorships and Registration is now open.

For information on the tournament and to view and print registration and sponsor forms, please visit [www.nucanm.org/do08.html](http://www.nucanm.org/do08.html)



NUCA of NM

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