Association Promotes Northern California Union Builders

By Scott Smith, President, James E. Roberts-Obayashi Corp., and President, Construction Employers’ Association

Competitive living wages, sustainable health care and pension benefits, and excellent training programs for apprentices and journeypersons enable union-affiliated building contractors to deliver quality projects on time and on budget. The Construction Employers’ Association (CEA) and its union partners are in agreement that taking care of workers is a wise investment that results in strong returns.

CEA is led by prominent contractor principals who are leaders in the Northern California building industry. Representing more than 100 union-affiliated contractors, the association provides its members with valuable labor relations, collective bargaining and public-works labor compliance assistance, along with legislative, regulatory and safety-related advocacy. CEA members collectively perform billions of dollars annually in public and private construction volume, including K-12 schools, community colleges and universities, commercial and government buildings, health care facilities, multifamily housing, water infrastructure, energy and power projects, laboratory and technology projects, sports stadiums and parking structures.

In addition to focusing on the direct needs of its members, CEA has also been an industry leader in supporting and promoting quality construction management education. To date, it has donated $3 million to leading California construction management university programs.

CEA values its long-standing positive relationships with its key labor partners: the Northern California Carpenters and Laborers unions. The association maintains offices in Walnut Creek and Sacramento, Calif. For additional information, visit www.cea-ca.org.

The 2020 CEA officers are (seated, from left) Past President/Treasurer Mark Bley, Dome Construction Corp.; First Vice President Colby Powell, C. Overaa & Co.; (standing, from left) Secretary Michael Walton; President Scott Smith, James E. Roberts-Obayashi Corp.; and Vice President Blair Allison, Cahill Contractors.