

IMPACT AWARD

Ramon "Ray" Hopkins
Caltrans

It is an honor to receive the UCON Impact Award. This recognition is a testament to the relationship that continues to strengthen between Caltrans and our Contractor partners.



Q: What is the value of involvement in United Contractors that you would like to convey to others?

A: As the construction industry continues to evolve, we need to collaboratively address both issues and opportunities that come from the ever-changing landscape. The best way to do this is through relationships with organizations like UCON and the contractors they represent.

Q: Is there a mentor(s) that shaped your career, philosophy, or work values?

A: I have several individuals from both the contracting community and Caltrans that I consider mentors and that have guided my career. My goal is always to learn something new from every interaction.

Q: What most important thing do you want people to know about you, your work, and the union construction industry?

A: I consider the relationship between Caltrans and our Contractors as a vital component of a strong construction industry. Without mutual understanding and respect, neither party can be successful. The voice of the contracting community is crucial in the evolution of our specifications as we embrace new technology to build and maintain a transportation system that serves all Californians. ■ ”



About Ramon "Ray" Hopkins:

In 1992, Ramon (Ray) Hopkins graduated from the University of Arizona and began his engineering career in the United States Marine Corps as a Combat Engineer Officer.

He joined Caltrans in 1998 as a Design Engineer. Soon after, he transferred to Construction and began working as a Resident Engineer and later as a Construction Engineer.

In December 2020, Ray was selected as the Chief, Division of Construction, for the California Department of Transportation. In this role he is responsible for providing statewide policies, procedures, and guidance for highway construction throughout California. He leads the HQ Construction team in support of



roughly \$13.5 billion dollars of ongoing construction projects on the State Highway System.

We are honoring Ray for his deep and genuine commitment to partnering, respect, integrity, and innovation, helping to make Caltrans an agency of choice for California's contractors. He has championed increased communication, enhanced safety policies, and promote collaboration with his teams and the industry.

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Ray is a true partner with the construction industry, unions, and key stakeholders who design, build, and maintain the state's critical transportation infrastructure. As Chief of Construction at Caltrans, his ability to bring all sides of the issue together is significant. Having championed the industry at Caltrans since 1998, UCON's Board is proud to bestow Ray with this award and recognizes that with the historic levels of funding for infrastructure projects, he has been a 'steady hand' at the wheel to ensure Caltrans is being great stewards of the public's dollars.

