

A Message From the CEO

ATSAC Quietly Improves Our Lives

by John Hawkins,
President and CEO, The Club

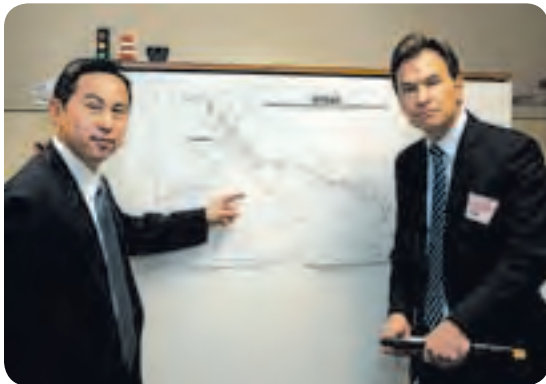
Like most readers of *Alive!*, you're probably reading this at home, kicking back and enjoying the good news of City Employees. You might not have noticed it on your drive home, but the City was with you all the way. Thanks to the City, there were strong streets, with good lighting and signage, and the traffic moved along at least reasonably well.

Whether you know it or not, every time you came to an intersection in the City, smart traffic engineers monitored your general traffic status, doing everything they could (either in advance through automation, or changing the signals on the fly) to get you home as fast and safe as possible.

It's a daunting task, and they're doing a heck of a job at it.

The City's Automated Traffic Surveillance and Control (ATSAC) system, headquartered deep in a basement near City Hall, looks like it's right out of NASA, with cool screens showing signal timings and traffic flow throughout the City. But it's serious business: This group of dedicated men and women, coupled with the technology and software they developed, are always at work, keeping traffic efficient and smooth to the best of their ability.

It's another one of the many services that the citizens of LA might take for granted because they simply don't know about it. Here at *Alive!*, we're happy to shed light on the ATSAC system and the people who run it. After doing this paper for the better part of a decade, and enjoying every issue, I've come to learn that the best City Employees are happy to do their work without a need for recognition. We love what we do at *Alive!* because you, a City Employee, deserve it, so we're going to keep on doing it. There are great stories to tell. Either way, though, ATSAC keeps humming along, quietly making our lives better every day of every week, every month of the year. It's what civil service is all about.



From left: Edward Yu, Traffic Engineer and Club Member, and John Hawkins, Club CEO, in the ATSAC system's nerve center.

Sure, traffic never moves quite as fast as we wish it did. This is LA! The good news is that the ATSAC team is on the job and will continue making our lives more manageable than they would be without them. That's good public service; I thank **Edward Yu**, Transportation Engineer and Club Member, and the entire ATSAC team for looking after our wellbeing.

I know I did this last month, but I want to continue to welcome our newest subscribers, members of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI). *Alive!* is now your official RLACEI newspaper, and all RLACEI members get to enjoy the awesome benefits of Club Membership (you'll have to join the Club on your own by May 2013 to continue receiving the Club benefits, but you'll still receive *Alive!* either way). **Ed Harding** and his team run a good association; this agreement is the partnering of two strong associations. So enjoy the benefits!

Speaking of benefits, as this is July, some of the Club's best benefits are even better during the summer, when City Employees spend extra time with their families. The cost of attractions and events can really start to add up during the summer. The solution: Take full advantage of your Club Discounts! Take the family to a water park or two. Enjoy an amusement park (especially Disney's revamped California Adventure). There are some really awesome movies coming up, too. Or even cruise on over to the amazing Catalina Island. *But do them at a discount!* The Club has your back.

Yes, it's summer, and that means it's time for me to shove off here and spend time with my family. Don't miss those opportunities, my friends, to spend time with your family. Those moments are irreplaceable.

JOHN

jhawkins@cityemployeesclub.com

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