

# Sustainability and resilience

Unfortunately, recent events have highlighted the urgent need to design the built environment to withstand severe weather and other events. In order for a structure to be sustainable, it must first be resilient. Both of these topics will continue to be top priorities for PCI this year.

To emphasize the resilience of precast and prestressed concrete structures, PCI launched the “Precast Protects Life” campaign several years ago. This emphasis continues with webinars, speaking opportunities at national architecture conferences, and a special issue of *Ascent* magazine dedicated to projects that showcase the resilience and durability of precast concrete. To add to that effort at the PCI Convention at the Precast Show in Indianapolis, Ind., the Sustainability Committee, Marketing Council, and PCI Board of Directors discussed the idea of widely promoting a resiliency rating system. Several years ago, a group called the U.S. Resiliency Council based in California put together a rating system for the safety, damage, and recovery of structures. Initially including only seismic, the system now includes wind ratings, with wildfire and flood ratings in development. We propose promoting the widespread use of the system similar to how the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) system was promoted beginning in the early 2000s.

In 2025, sustainability and the positioning of precast concrete in the marketplace will continue to be a major focus of the institute and the board. As I write this message, we are still waiting for final award of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant that will help our members get environmental product declarations for their precast concrete products. We are partnering with the National Prestressed Concrete Association and the American Concrete Pipe Association on the EPA grant.

The closing of our annual membership and awards luncheon saw the traditional passing of the gavel to the next chair of PCI, Carlos Cerna of Manco Structures. At the board of directors meeting, Cheryl Lang of Tindall was elected vice chair and Lloyd Kennedy of Finfrock Industries was elected secretary-treasurer. I look forward to working with the officers and the entire board of directors in the year ahead as we continue to lead PCI and the industry to better and better heights. I want to thank our outgoing chair, Jim Fabinski, for his leadership, vision, and friendship this past year. Among his accomplishments in his term were the successful return of the CEO Summit and the TechnoQuest overseas technical tours. I also want to thank Matt Ballain for his service to PCI as he completed his time on the board of directors. His emphasis on strengthening and expanding our relationships with students and professors has taken our education tools to a whole new level.

A thanks to all the members I saw in Indianapolis and of course a big thank you to your dedicated PCI staff, who I biasedly believe is the truly best in the concrete industry. Here's to a successful 2025! 📌



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PCI President and CEO