

# Tanenbaum Presents 2-Hr. Seminar to San Diego County Water Authority

By Ron Tanenbaum, Ph.D., PE, GE, CVS, FASCE

The SAVE San Diego Chapter is committed to providing its members, and those who express an interest in value engineering and value analysis, opportunities to learn more about the VE process, and the potential for improved project performance at reduced project cost that the methodology offers. As part of this effort, **Ron Tanenbaum, Ph.D., PE, GE, CVS, FASCE**, at-large board member for the chapter, presented a two-hour educational seminar to introduce the methodology and its benefits to those attending the workshop. The session sought to address what value engineering is, how it works, and what it can do to enhance the performance of their projects while increasing project value. The primer on the VE process was developed to introduce the methodology to those who have not previously participated in a VE workshop—Tanenbaum refers to them as “newbies”—and to reinforce the knowledge base of those who have already enjoyed the experience.

The workshop was held in the conference room of the San Diego County Water Authority (thank you!) and attended by 42 people, including 22 members of the Water Authority along with representatives from the City of San Diego, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and several contractors. The training seminar covered a number of important and interesting topics. Discussions began with a very important assessment of what value engineering is and, more significantly, what it is not, and the reasons for poor value

in design and construction. This discussion then transitioned into a presentation of the value engineering objectives and timing of the VE workshop in the design process, followed by a presentation of the step-by-step VE job plan. Emphasis was placed on two important components of the job plan—function analysis and the FAST diagram—and the importance of life cycle costing.

Following the completion of the formal portion of the seminar, the members took advantage of the experience of its senior members in the audience. Particularly, retired member **George Bartolomei, CVS-Life**, and Tanenbaum, with over 300 workshops under their collective belts, led discussions of a number of case histories and success stories to enhance the benefits of the VE process. The session concluded with a discussion of how the process can be used in many other applications besides engineering and construction, including the making of important decisions in the participants’ everyday lives.

The participants agreed that this workshop, though certainly not a substitute for the Module I certification training course, should be a regular, annual (if not semi-annual) feature of the chapter’s programs and those of other chapters of SAVE. Engineering and construction firms, should be encouraged to participate in similar introductory seminars. The chapter will also offer the seminar to other agencies at their request.



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