

Leadership Skills in Managing Major Construction Projects

Stanford Splash – Spring 2010

Have you ever passed by a major ongoing project and wondered how things are actually managed? Have you ever imagined the challenges and rewards of being involved with projects such as these? Have you ever visualized yourself leading such a project?

The intent of this two hour class is to present to you an understanding of these elements, and give to you an ability to visualize how effective participation and leadership in these events is occurring.

You will receive straightforward materials that will present to you answers to the following:

- **What** exactly is going on here? What are the objectives and rationales for the activities we are witnessing?
- **Why** is the work necessary at all, and how is it benefitting the community at large?
- **Where** exactly is this work originating? From here are materials, investment capital, and professional research coming ?
- **Who** is leading, and who is building this project? Who is local government is providing oversight?
- **When** was this project visualized? When will it complete? How long will it contribute to society?
- **How** – how exactly has this project been designed? How is it being built?

To make this discussion come to life we will use as models the following:

- 1) the **TransAmerica Pyramid** Building in San Francisco (pre-computer model)
- 2) the massive solar projects planned for the Mojave desert (present information systems model)
- 3) the 27.000 panel **Recurrent Energy** solar project just beginning in San Francisco (how passive solar can be a key to our economic and environmental survival).