



Association of Engineering Geologists

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San Francisco Section

Southern California Section

Serving Professionals in Engineering Geology, Environmental Geology and Hydrogeology

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September 15, 2004

To: Mr. Billy C. Hamilton and Mr. Chon Gutierrez, Co-Executive Directors
California Performance Review Committee
1102 Q Street, 6th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Comments on the Draft CPR RES 08 from the Association of Engineering Geologists (AEG)

Founded in California in 1957, the Association of Engineering Geologists (AEG) is a national organization of professionals that represents geologists and geophysicists working in the environmental, engineering geology, and hydrogeology fields. Within California, there are three sections: Sacramento, San Francisco, and Southern California. Officers from these sections have reviewed the draft California Performance Review (CPR) report, dated August 3, 2004, to address possible implications of the proposal on our profession. This process included polling our members to assure that this letter reflects the majority's opinion. Our review focused specifically on Resolution 08 which recommends combining the existing Board of Geologists and Geophysicists (BGG) with the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB), and Chapter 8 which recommends placing the SMGB and the BGG within a new Department of Natural Resources, Division of Land Management. We are aware that the draft CPR document is, at this point, only conceptual and that further changes may be proposed.

AEG and its California members applaud the efforts of the current administration to streamline the structure of our State government. Based on our review, we must oppose the proposal in its current form due to lack of clarity with regards to the specific structure and process that would be implemented. We have worked for decades to develop and support a Board that is directly responsible for public health, safety and welfare by requiring strict adherence to professional standards and ethics in the practices of geology and geophysics. In its current form, the proposal does not provide any assurance that

these and other essential responsibilities would remain the charter of the merged Boards. Similarly, the current proposal provides no assurance that some of the Board members would have experience in geology or geophysics, as currently required.

We are also concerned about possible changes to the licensing regulations. We assume that these would remain unaffected, but this is not clearly stated in the proposal. This information is critical for our review, as it specifies experience requirements and examination procedures for geologists and geophysicists, disciplinary actions for malpractice, and other important details and measures regulating our professions. These items are now successfully handled by the existing BGG.

Although there may be merit to a carefully considered restructuring plan, the current proposal is vague. Therefore, the California sections of AEG cannot support the CPR proposal without further consideration of the critical issues mentioned above. We respectfully offer the services of our members to assist in developing the details of this proposal and any related resolutions or regulatory framework affected by it. We sincerely appreciate your consideration of our input to the CPR process.

Respectfully submitted,

On behalf of the California Sections of the Association of Engineering Geologists



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