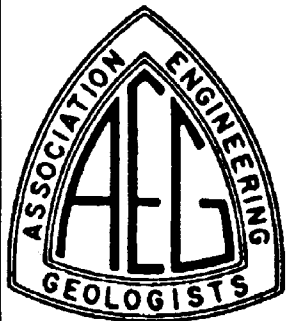


Association of Engineering Geologists

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Southern California Section NEWSLETTER- February 1994

Dinner Meeting - Tuesday, February 8

- The Quiet Cannon Restaurants
901 North Via San Clemente
Montebello
- Cost - \$20.00 (Full-Time Students - \$5.00)
- Make reservations by Friday February 4!!!
Geosoils (818) 785-2158
(Leave Your Name & Number of People in Your Party)
- 5:30 Social Hour
- 6:45 Dinner

Short Topic

Preliminary Data from the Northridge Earthquake by
Egill Hauksson

Program

1993 Fire Storms Soil Damage, Erosion, and Restoration
by
Douglas W. Toews, P.E.
USDA, Soil Conservation Service

James O'Tousa
Chairman
(818)993-1211

Robert A. Larson
Vice Chairman
(818) 458-4923

Tony Stirbys
Secretary
(213) 362-6176

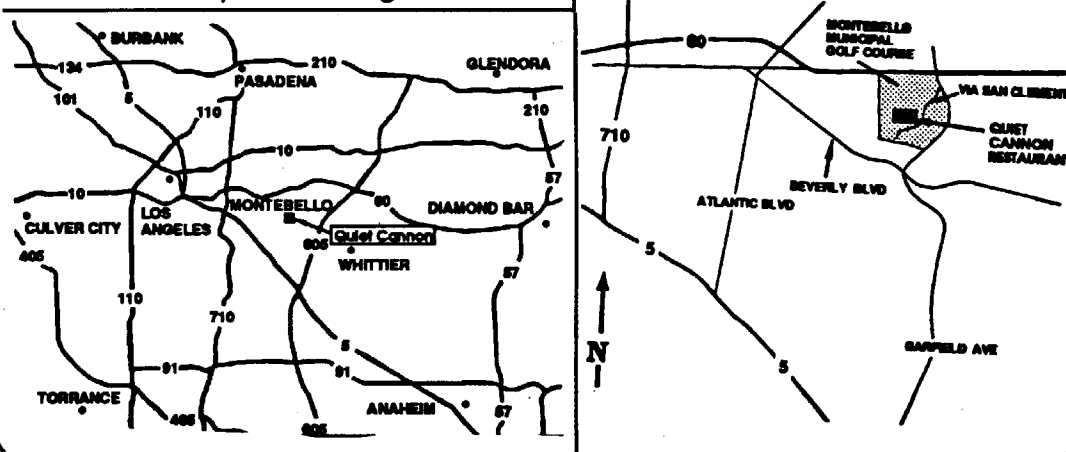
Joseph A. Cota
Treasurer
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Membership Chairman
(909) 860-7772

William LaChapelle
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(805) 374-9721

Dave Ebersold
Newsletter Editor
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(818) 796-9141
(818) 568-6103 FAX
c/o Montgomery Watson
301 North Lake Avenue
Suite 600
Pasadena, CA 91101

Map to Meeting



▲ February Program

Topic: "1993 Fire Storms, Soil Damage, Erosion and Restoration"

Speaker: Douglas W. Toews, P.E., U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service

The fire storms of 1993 consumed over 200,000 acres in southern California, along with hundreds of homes and other structures resulting in countless injuries. More than 150 Soil Conservation Service (SCS) employees have been working hard to complete the job of estimating the fire damage, planning and installing restoration measures, and providing landowners with the know-how to protect their properties from flooding and mudslides. Mr. Toews will discuss the role of the SCS in this process and the impact of the 1993 fire storms on erosion potential and slope stability.

Douglas W. Toews, P.E., received his B.S. degree in Agricultural Engineering from Oklahoma State University. After serving for six years as a Naval Flight Officer, he began his professional engineering career by joining the USDA, Soil Conservation Service. His assignments have included Field Office Engineer in Santa Barbara County, and project Engineer in Ventura County. In his current position as Area Engineer, he provides technical leadership to the SCS offices in the coastal counties of California, from San Diego to San Francisco. His special assignments have included serving as Project Engineer during the 1988 Loma Prieta Earthquake, the 1990 Painted Cave Fire in Santa Barbara, and the Southern California Fire Storms of 1993. He is a Registered Civil Engineer in California, and is a member of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, and the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

▲ Section News

The Section has made a concentrated effort to attract groundwater and environmental engineering geologists into our organization, and this is good. However, we have been losing engineering geologists in the geotechnical field as a result because some do not feel AEG is providing them with the information and technical data which interests them. Not only are they leaving the Southern California Section, but they are leaving the Association. Any comments or feelings may be addressed at any meeting or faxed to Jim O'Tusa at (818) 993-1211.

Our section thrives as a result of the volunteers of the organization, and now we have a wealth of possible field trip destinations and short course topics. Our section is also very fortunate to have available funds to promote trips for our membership. All we need is a field trip chairperson, why not you?

NEW MEMBERS GET FREE DINNER AT THE FEBRUARY 8TH SECTION MEETING! The following people were recently approved for AEG membership and will receive dinner compliments of the Section at the February 8th meeting: **Kim Bishop, Andrew Hendrickson, Scott Marshall, Stephen Miller, David Murphy, Michael Spira, and Jeffrey Wilson.** Welcome to AEG!

LEGISLATIVE NEWS: State Senate Bill 746 (Rogers) would require the State Personnel Board (SPB) to revise job specification for the positions of associate engineering geologist, senior engineering geologist and supervising engineering geologist to require certification as an engineering geologist.

continued on next page

▲ Chairman's Column

I hope everyone and their families survived the Northridge Earthquake on January 16, 1994, 4:31 AM, PST. Unfortunately, most of the present officers of the Southern California Section live in and around the epicenter area and were without power or telephones for a few days. In addition, our speaker for the meeting, Steve Testa, cancelled so he could be with his parents who live in Northridge. The January meeting was cancelled.

As I traveled around Northridge to check on my parents and friends, an observation that surprised me was that some of the newer structures, i.e. structures at the Northridge Mall and California State University Northridge, built within the last 5 years, were severely damaged. Go Figure. The collapsed apartment building on Reseda Boulevard which claimed 16 lives was constructed in 1973, two years after the 1971 San Fernando Earthquake.

As part of the February meeting, we are trying to get a Caltech or USGS scientist to provide AEG with some of the latest information and theories regarding the earthquake (short topic, 15 minutes). Although we need not forget the rainy season is upon us and the Malibu area may be subject to debris flows and flooding problems. Our speaker from the Soil Conservation Service will address some of the potential problems associated with the upcoming rains.



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BOOK SALE

Association of Engineering Geologists, Southern California Section

- Blake, T., and Larson, R.A., Eds., 1991, Engineering Geology along the Simi-Santa Rosa fault system and adjacent areas, Simi Valley to Camarillo, Ventura County, California: Guidebook for the Southern California Section of the Association of Engineering Geologists Annual Field Trip, August 24, 1991, Volumes 1 and 2, 383 pgs., 4 map sheets. **\$30.00 PRICE REDUCED**
- Buckley, C.I., and Larson, R.A., Eds., 1990, Geology and Engineering Geology of the western Soledad Basin, Los Angeles County, California: Guidebook for the Southern California Section of the Association of Engineering Geologists Annual Field Trip, November 3, 1990, 185 pgs., 2 map sheets. **\$25.00**
- City of Los Angeles, 1982, Geologic Maps of the Santa Monica Mountains, Los Angeles, California: 333 map sheets at 1" = 400', compiled by the Bureau of Engineering, Department of Public Works, City of Los Angeles, reprinted by the Southern California Section of the Association of Engineering Geologists, 342 pgs. **\$26.00**
- Leighton, Beach F., 1992, Mitigation of Geotechnical Litigation in California, Munson Books. **\$44.00**
- Shlemon, R. J. Applications of Soil Stratigraphy to Engineering and Environmental Geology, Association of Engineering Geology, Southern California Section Short Course Notes, June 5, 1993. **\$35.00**
- Sieh, K.E. and Matti, J.C., October 3-4, 1992, Earthquake Geology San Andreas Fault System Palm Springs to Palmdale, 35th Annual AEG Meeting, Guidebook and Reprint Volume. **\$25.00**
- Ehlig, P.L. and Steiner, E.A. Editors, October 2-9, 1992, Engineering Geology field Trips: Orange County, Santa Monica Mountains and Malibu. 35th Annual AEG Meeting, **\$25.00** **Optional Map and Cross Section of Big Rock Mesa **\$15.00**
- Stout, M. L., Editor, 1992, Association of Engineering Geologists, Proceedings for the 35th Annual Meeting, October 2-9, 1992, Los Angeles, California. **\$40.00**
- Scullin, M.C., 1983, Excavation and Grading Code Administration, Instruction, and Enforcement, Prentice-Hall, Inc. **\$25.00**
- Stirbys, Anthony F., et. al., October 2-9, 1992, Los Angeles Metro Rail System Field Trip Guidebook, AEG 35th Annual Meeting, Long Beach, California; **\$25.00**
- Stout, M.L., 1976, Geologic Guide to the San Bernardino Mountains, Southern California. Guidebook for the Southern California Section of the Association of Engineering Geologists Annual Field Trip, May 22, 1976; 115 pages **\$11.00**
- Shuirman, G. and Slosson, James, 1992, Forensic Engineering, Environmental Case Histories for Civil Engineers and Geologists, Academic Press, Inc. **\$49.95**
- Pipkin, B.W. and Proctor, R.J., Editors, 1992, Engineering Geology Practice in Southern California, Star Publishing, 779 pages, **\$79.95** plus a special charge of **\$5.00** shipping and handling.

Books are available from: Bill LaChapelle, Publications Chairman, AEG Southern California Section. c/o Cal-Geo Corporation, 380 Thorpe Circle, Thousand Oaks, California 91360. Telephone (805) 374-9721; FAX (805) 496-5244. Make checks payable to AEG Southern California Section. **Please add 8.25% sales tax and the following postage/handling charges:** \$2.50 for the first book and \$0.50 for each additional book.

section news continued

This bill is sponsored by AEG and is a two year bill, meaning AEG has until 1994 to settle issues before taking legislative action. This bill has opposition from two state agencies, SPB and the Department of Personnel Administration (DPA). In addition, the Legislative Counsel wrote and opinion that they were not in favor of the language of the bill because it violates Section 3 of Article VII of the California Constitution. As a result, Senator Rogers and AEG decided to drop SB 746 this year and introduce a legislative resolution that would require DPB and SPB to investigate the problem and report back to the legislature. This will require the DPA and SPB to report why they do not require certification for those positions. Hot Potato! DPA has contacted our lobbyist, Judith Wolen, and a meeting with AEG and DPA will be set in a few weeks.

AB 672. AEG supported this bill which provided clarification of the Alquist Priolo Special Studies Zones and revises provisions of the Geologic Hazard Abatement District Law. These changes encourage seismic retrofitting of specific structures located in special studies Zones which have a high potential for damage from ground shaking.

STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR GEOLOGISTS AND GEOPHYSICISTS. The sub-committee on Efficiency and Effectiveness in State Boards and Commissions held several meetings in fall 1993. Testimony was provided from several boards including the Geology and Geophysicists regarding merging the Geology Board with the Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. AEG provided testimony before the committee in opposition to any change of the current structure of the board. The sub-committee is expected to provide recommendations in a report as early as February 1, 1994, and a bill will be introduced based on the recommendations. Our lobbyist will keep us informed of the developments of this bill as it is introduced.

NEWS ITEM: Murray Levish, a Bay area geologist, voluntarily surrendered his licenses on December 31, 1993 to the State Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists. This decision was reached as a result of a mandatory mediation conference held prior to an administrative hearing. The hearing was sought by the Board in order to revoke Mr. Levish's licenses for negligent and incompetent practice. Due to the lack of a hearing, nothing was proven one way or another. This was essentially the test case of the Board's increased and on-going enforcement activities. Presently, the Board is seeking administrative hearings against two other geologists and has many other enforcement cases in the pipeline.

Seminars/Meetings/Field Trips

March 1994

8

Joint Meeting with ACSE, The Quiet Cannon, Montebello. "The Newmark Method of Seismic Slope Analysis" by Randy Jibson, U.S.G.S.

SECTION COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Professional Registration:
Bob Hollingsworth (818) 889-0844

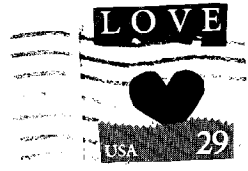
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