

ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION

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December 1995

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING

December 12, 1995

La Conchita Landslide, Ventura County, CA

presented by

James O'Tousa

Reservations must be made by Friday, December 8!

Call GeoSoils at (818) 785-2158

(leave your name and the number in your party)

Location: Steven's Steak House, 5332 Steven's Place, Commerce

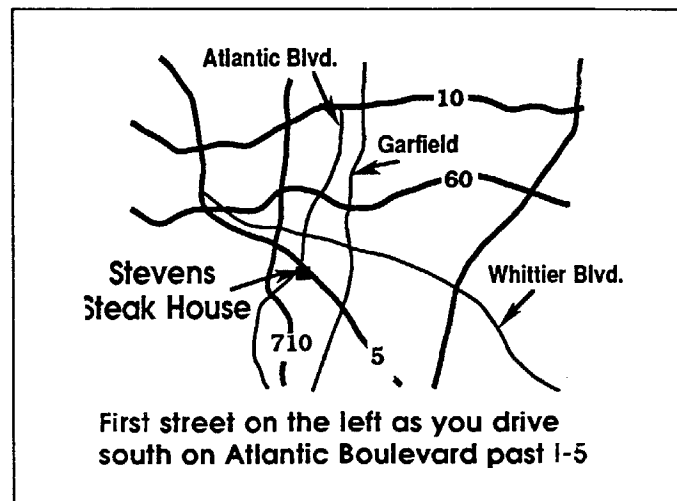
Cost: \$20.00 (\$10.00 for full-time students with valid I.D.)

Social Hour: 6:00 pm

Dinner: 7:00 pm

Meeting: 8:00 pm

Map to Meeting



Deadline for submittals to the February newsletter: January 19

DECEMBER PROGRAM

La Conchita Landslide, Ventura County, California

James O'Tousa

RJR Engineering Group, Inc.
3201 Corte Malpaso, Suite 307, Camarillo, CA 93012-8075

The community of La Conchita is located on the California coast, about midway between Ventura and Santa Barbara. The community was subdivided in the 1920's into about 200 single-family residential lots along the base of a coastal bluff. The slope ascends approximately 600 vertical feet at a 1.5:1 gradient. Avocado and citrus orchards have been established above the bluff on a gently sloping terrace surface.

Surface cracks were reported near the top of the slope in the summer of 1994. Owners of the orchard had installed slope inclinometers to monitor the movement. The slope failed catastrophically on March 4, 1995 following a period of higher than normal rainfall. A section of the slope, 400 feet wide, 1100 feet long, and 500 feet in vertical height failed rapidly between 2:03 and 2:30 pm. Eye witnesses reported that the top of the landslide dropped vertically, then the bottom flowed, and some good video coverage of the failure was shown on local news stations.

The initial landslide buried and/or damaged seven residences; however, no lives were lost. On March 10, 1995, following more rainfall, a debris flow occurred in a canyon on the western part of the landslide and damaged additional residences and a portion of a banana plantation. The recent landslide appears to be a reacti-

vated portion of a larger ancient landslide complex. Bedrock underlying the landslide area consists of marine shale, siltstone, sandstone, mudstone, and conglomerate of the Monterey and Pico Formations. The geologic contact between the two formations is believed to be the Red Mountain fault. The fault has reverse left oblique slip and is considered "active" by the CDMG.

Response measures undertaken to protect the community include: installation of concrete k-rails along the toe of the slide, and breaching, by hand labor, of a pond which had formed within a mid-slide graben.

The work on the La Conchita landslide was done in cooperation with the County of Ventura Public Works Agency, and the Sheriff's Department.



Biographical Information

Jim O'tousa is the Principal Engineering Geologist of RJR Engineering Group in Camarillo. Jim received his B.S. degree from California State University, Northridge in 1983, and his M.S. from California State University, Los Angeles in 1990. He was AEG's 1993-1994 Southern California Section Chairman.

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*** WHAT'S SHAKING IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA? *
SEISMIC HAZARDS ANALYSIS - THE SEQUEL**

A One-Day Short Course Sponsored by the
**Association of Engineering Geologists
Southern California Section**



January 20, 1996 - 8am to 5pm
University of Southern California
Davidson Conference Center
3415 South Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, California

A one-day short course is scheduled for January 20, 1996, in the Davidson Conference Center at USC in Los Angeles. This short course supplements and expands upon the previous AEG Seismic Hazards Analysis short course held in 1994. Thomas Blake has expended great effort in obtaining several prominent experts to share their knowledge of the state-of-the-art of Seismic Hazards Analysis.

Dr. Robert Sewell will describe the mechanics of probabilistic seismic hazard modeling using the newly revised Version 3.0 of FRISKSP. Dr. Bernard Minster will describe the role of the Southern California Earthquake Center and explain how it can be useful to professionals who perform seismic hazard modeling. Drs. Thomas Henyey and Sally McGill will each present summaries of fault-specific parameters for several of the significant faults in southern California. Dr. Kenneth Campbell will discuss new strong-ground-motion attenuation relation developments and he will present some of the ground-motion lessons learned from recent blind-thrust earthquakes. John Kariotis will discuss the seismic-hazards-analysis needs of structural engineers and explain how seismic-hazards-analysis data are used for structural design.

This is a short course you shouldn't pass up! Continuing education units will be awarded to AEG members. The reasonable course fee (\$95 per participant) will include course handouts, lunch, and drinks/munchies during breaks. Plan to attend and **SIGN UP NOW!** Complete the attached registration form and return it with your check promptly. Advance registration is required by January 5, 1996, and will be confirmed by letter. If you have any questions, please call **Sue Tanges at 619-442-8022.**

* * * * *

REGISTRATION FORM - DUE BY JANUARY 5, 1996
Seismic Hazards Analysis - The Sequel
AEG Short Course, January 20, 1996

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

City/ST/ZIP _____

Phone _____

Make check or money order payable to:
Association of Engineering Geologists
and mail to:

AEG Short Course
c/o Southland Geotechnical Consultants
1238-A Greenfield Drive
El Cajon, CA 92021

Course Fee: \$95 per person
Are you an AEG member? _____

SEE YOU JANUARY 20th!!!

**Association of Engineering Geologists
Southwest Section — Las Vegas Subsection
SHORT COURSE**



Geology of Southern Nevada

presented by

Professor Steve Rowland

Dept. of Geoscience,
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
☎ (702) 895-3625

When: Saturday, December 9, 1995

Where: Hacienda Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada

Time: 8 am to 5 pm

Cost: \$55.00

Coordinator: Dr. Nick Saines
1587 Figueroa Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89123
☎ (702) 896-4049

Course Description: A course covering the regional geology, stratigraphy, and structural geology of southern Nevada; the geological history of the region from Precambrian to Recent time; major faulting; and implications regarding waste disposal, water supply, and seismic activity.

Field Trip: Sunday, December 10, 1995, 8am to noon led by Steve Rowland. Cost: \$15.00.

How to Register: Send check for \$55.00 for short course, \$15.00 for the field trip, or \$65.00 for both, made out to AEG-SW Section to Nick Saines at above address.

COURSE OFFERINGS

Department of Geological Sciences
Cal State University, Northridge
Spring 1996

Hydrogeology 575

Introductory hydrogeology course for undergraduate students with emphasis in southern California hydrogeologic problems - 3 units lecture, Monday evenings, 6:00 to 9:00 PM, 1 unit lab/field (times to be arranged) - 15 weeks starting January 29, 1996.

For further information call A. Tabidian, 818-885-2536 or 3541.

Sedimentary Environments 521

Undergraduate/graduate seminar and field analysis of the sedimentary rock characteristics which lead to the identification of ancient sedimentary environments - 3 units seminar, Tuesday evenings, 6:00 to 9:00 PM, 1 unit field (6 weekend days) - 15 weeks starting January 30, 1996.

For further information call Eugene Fritsche, 818-885-2527 or 3541.

OSHA 40 Hour "Hazwhopper" Course

Professional level course for OSHA 40 hour certification for hazardous waste identification, handling, etc. Course will be offered at CSUN, 8 hours/day, for 5 days, January 8-12, 1996. A non-university credit course for professionals offered by Keith Green, RE, REG. Sponsored by the Department of Geological Sciences Geology Club and coordinated by Peter Fischer. Cost will be \$400.

For further information contact Pete Fischer, 818-885-3574 or 3541. ϕ

COMPUTER CORNER

Here are a few geology-related web sites advertised recently on the sci-geo-geology newsgroup:

CDMG: <http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dig/>

Misc. geology, hydrogeology, geography, etc:
<http://www.csn.net/~bthoen/ores/>

<http://cri.ensmp.fr/g/photos.html>

A crinoid site is found at:

<http://141.218.91.91/clinoid/zcrinoid.html>

Southern California Earthquake Center:

<http://scec.gps.caltech.edu>

NISEE Strong Motion Center:

<http://www.cadre.caltech.edu/earl/ear1.html>

An antiquarian geology books site (with a reported 1201 titles) is found at:

<http://www.iprolink.ch/egos/>

A bibliography of seismology, fracture mechanics, and other stuff is found at:

http://www.dur.ac.uk/~dg10jrh/bibs/seis_bib.html

Alleged "virtual geology field trips" is found at:

<http://sepwww.stanford.edu/oldsep/joe/#fieldtrips> ϕ

NEW FEATURE!

**10 YEARS AGO
THIS MONTH**

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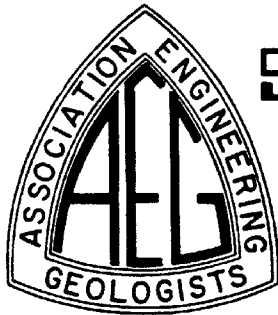


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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION

newsletter

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MARK OBORNE
Editor - 818-888-3786
C/O Osborne and Associates, Inc.
22715 Dolorosa St.,
Woodland Hills, California 91367

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

DECEMBER MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, December 10, 1985

PLACE: Stevens Steak House
5332 Stevens Place
Commerce (T.G. 53 F2)

COST: \$13.00 (Tip included)

RESERVATIONS: Kovacs-Byer & Associates, Inc.
818-980-0825
Please make reservations by noon on previous
friday.

TIME: 5:30 Social Hour
6:30 Dinner
7:30 AEG Business
8:00 Speaker
9:00 Section Affairs, if scheduled

SPEAKER: Jack Eagen, Senior Vice President and manager
of operations for Moore and Taber. Mr. Eagen
is responsible for the overall direction and
coordination of all Moore and Taber operation
divisions, including Bakersfield. He
received a BA from UCLA in 1955 and has
performed graduate studies at UCLA and USC.

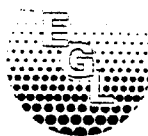
RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE DISTRESS CAUSED BY GYPSUM GROWTH

Structural distress to residential homes in a section of the Santa Monica Mountains has been attributed to the growth of gypsum crystals between bedding planes of the carbonaceous shale of the Modelo Formation. Weathering and geochemical alteration of fine-grained iron sulfides (pyrite) in the shale, in combination with dissolved calcium, has produced secondary hydrous calcium sulfate (gypsum) having a much greater volume. The reaction creates pressures that can cause differential heaving, uplift, and attendant structural damage. Structures of conventional raised floor design appear to be most susceptible to this distress. Jack will welcome comments, contributions, and case histories.

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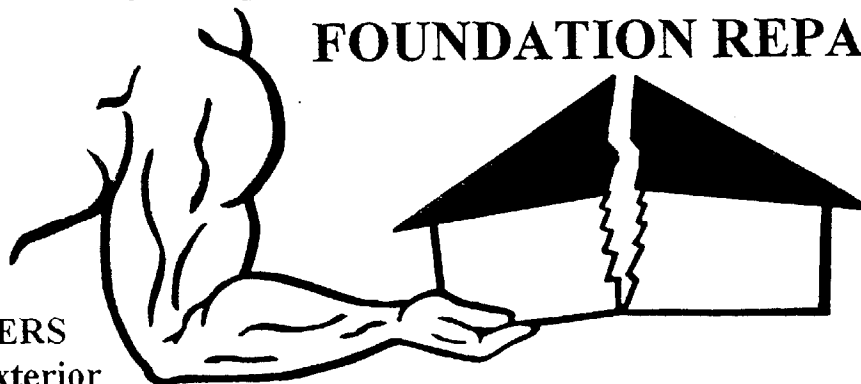
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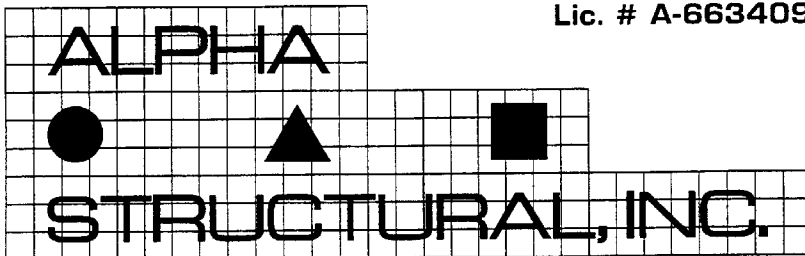
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