



**ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS**  
***Southern California Section***

*"Connecting Professionals, Practice, and the Public."*

***NEWSLETTER – January 2006***

*Officers*

Chair - Charles Nestle, [cnestle@ladpw.org](mailto:cnestle@ladpw.org), (626) 458-4923  
 Vice Chair - Brian Villalobos, [bvillalobos@petra-inc.com](mailto:bvillalobos@petra-inc.com), (714) 549-8921  
 Treasurer - Rosalind Munro, [rmunro@mactec.com](mailto:rmunro@mactec.com), (323) 889-5366  
 Secretary - Peter Thams, [pthams@wcenviro.com](mailto:pthams@wcenviro.com), (805) 644-7976

**Meeting Date:** **Tuesday, January 10**

**Location:** Steven's Steak House, 5332 Stevens Place, Commerce, California

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.-Social Hour; 7:00 p.m.-Dinner; 7:45 p.m.-Presentation

**Cost:** \$30 per person with reservations, \$35 at the door, \$15 for students with a valid Student ID

**Reservations:** Please call (323) 889-5366 or email [rmunro@mactec.com](mailto:rmunro@mactec.com)

**Speaker:** **Bruce A. Schell**

**Topic:** **Faulting and Earthquake Hazards in the Los Angeles Basin Area**

**Abstract:**

A recent 2-year evaluation of seismic hazards for the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach has evaluated the probabilistic seismic hazards for the busiest port complex in the United States. An upcoming phase will focus on the probabilistic tsunami hazards in the port area. In addition to the usual suspects such as the Newport-Inglewood and Palos Verdes faults, poorly known and enigmatic features such as the Compton-Los Alamitos thrust, THUMS-Huntington Beach, Los Alamitos, and Cabrillo faults,

as well as offshore faults such as the San Pedro Basin fault were evaluated. The hazard model uses newly developed ground-motion attenuation relationships based on the abundant new worldwide earthquake data to derive probabilistic seismic design estimates. This talk will present the results of the investigation but equally important discuss the state of knowledge on faults that control the design estimates. These results are important not only for the ports but for much of the Los Angeles Basin as well.

<b>Speaker Bio</b>
--------------------

**Bruce A. Schell** is a consulting geologist based in the southern California area where he has practiced independently since 1988. Prior to that, he was Principal Geoscientist at the Earth Technology Corporation. He is licensed in the state of California as a Professional Geologist and a Certified Engineering Geologist, and serves as the Engineering Geologist on the California State Hospital and Building Safety Board. Bruce received his Bachelor of Science from California State University, Northridge and has conducted graduate studies at the University of Southern California and California State University, Los Angeles. Mr. Schell's consulting practice involves engineering geological investigations for government agencies, other geotechnical firms, land developers, insurance companies, law firms, and property owners. Typical investigations comprise 1) seismological hazards analyses such as identifying earthquake sources, compiling historical seismicity, estimating maximum earthquakes, calculating earthquake probabilities, and evaluating seismically induced ground failures (e.g. liquefaction), 2) evaluating geological hazards such as faults, landslides, ground subsidence, and erosion, 3) site characterization such as determining geological and engineering conditions of soil, sediments, and rocks, and 4) environmental assessments, impacts, and mitigations. His investigations typically employ the geological disciplines of geomorphology, Quaternary geology, remote sensing, seismology, paleoseismology, and geophysics. Mr. Schell's geological and seismological research has resulted in more than 50 published scientific papers.

<b>Chair Column</b>
---------------------

Charles Nestle

As we welcome in the new year we face challenges to our profession in the form of eliminating the California Specific Exam and a new round of sunset review hearings for the Board for Professional Geologists and Geophysicists. The sunset review hearings will probably not begin until September, so I'll defer that discussion to another day. The CSE, however, is another matter. During the December 2, 2004 BGG Meeting the Board approved the recommendation by a Focus Group to eliminate the requirement for a California Specific Exam to be passed prior to licensure. The Focus Group was overseen by the Office of Examination Resources of the Department of Consumer Affairs, and their report is attached after this column.

Judy Wolen, AEG's lobbyist, provided the following meeting summary:

"I attended the BGG meeting yesterday where they briefly discussed the recommendations from the Office of Examination Resources (OER) in response to the suggestions from the California Specific Examination (CSE) focus group workshop held on October 7 and 8, 2005. The Focus group consisted of 7 licensed, professional geologists. The purpose of this focus group was to evaluate the requirement of passing the California Specific Examination to be licensed in the state of California. Tracy Montez, Chief of the OER within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) presented the recommendations based on the focus group results and suggestions.

1. To rescind the licensure requirement that a professional geologist candidate must pass the CSE.

*Tracy commented that the CSE does not serve adequately as a licensing requirement and that it was the focus groups belief that the ASBOG examination adequately test the minimal acceptable level of competence.*

2. Compile the information recommended by the focus group for incorporation into a candidate handbook. Questions will be developed on topic areas and candidate must answer questions and return to the BGG a signed and notarized document for licensure.

*Sweeney noted the BGG will work with the OER to develop the questions and that the responses will be maintained in the licensee record.*

3. Continue to monitor enforcement rates. If it appears that the lack of California-specific knowledge is negatively impacting consumer health and safety, then they will reinstate the supplemental licensure examination.

*Sweeney noted that AEG and CCGO will be valuable in feedback in this area.*

*Charles Nestle and I spoke in concern for the elimination of the supplemental exam. Charles said that the ASBOG lacks specific questions on landslides and fault issues which are both prevalent in California. The BGG said they would work with ASBOG and asked that the AEG and CCGO do the same to get these type of examination questions in the ASBOG test.*

*I raised the concern that several AEG members are concerned about not having a CA specific exam and noted the arguments used years ago when the legislature insisted in moving to the national exam. We stated that California is different and has different geologic issues that ASBOG does not cover.*

*The BGG then took a vote to eliminate the CSE and it was voted to be eliminated unanimously. They did not vote on the handbook but did discuss it so I do not know what happens with the development and implementation of the handbook. I will call Paul next week and discuss with him.*

*The requirement of the CSE is in statute so it will require legislation to eliminate. It is presumed it will be put in a Senate Business and Professions committee bill in January."*

Paul Sweeney, Executive Officer of the Board for Geologists and Geophysicists responded to Judy's summary by writing:

"As to the steps we will be taking now, I will be working with Dr. Montez and the Legislative Unit of DCA on the best legislative vehicle (DCA omnibus bill, a stand-alone bill, work directly with the Senate Business and Professions Committee staff to locate an appropriate bill or other means) to eliminate the CSE requirement from our statute (Business and Professions Code section 7841(d)). The California Specific Examination (CSE) will still be part of the licensing examination process in Spring 2006, since there is not enough time for legislation to be drafted, reviewed by Legislative Counsel, read into the record, passed through both the Senate and the Assembly (and each house's policy and appropriations Committees), signed by the Governor, chaptered by the Secretary of State, enacted as urgency legislation...before the exam date of March 3!

On the Candidate Handbook, this will be more of what OER refers to as an educational tool instead of a candidate's handbook. I will be working with OER and the Board's Examination Committee, with the potential of another group of Subject Matter Experts (SME) to be chosen from the licensed community by the Board for putting together this new document. Ultimately, the goal is to have a document that must be completed by any individual who has passed all other requirements for licensure as a Professional Geologist (PG) in California (education, experience and testing requirements) This document must be completed, notarized and returned to the Board for insertion into their file that we will maintain at the Board prior to a license being issued. All licensee files in the Board's possession are kept in perpetuity.

As for monitoring enforcement rates, the Board already requires (and has for at least seven years) an enforcement report to be presented at every Board Meeting. In addition, the Enforcement Oversight Committee (comprised of a licensed Board Member and a licensed

SME) meets twice a year to oversee the enforcement activities of the Executive Officer and his staff. If it appears that the lack of California-specific knowledge is negatively impacting consumer health and safety, then the Board will reinstate the CSE.

If anybody has any questions on this issue, please call me at (916) 263-2113 at your convenience.”

I've received several emails from members disturbed by the prospect of a lessening of standards by the Board. One person said they had never heard of a board decreasing requirements without being pressured to by the legislature or Governor.

Buzz Spellman, one of the SoCal Section's Legislative Committee members, wrote:

“The decision to eliminate the California Specific Examination as a requirement for licensure is unfortunate. California geologists only joined the Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) on the premise ASBOG would accept the California Specific Examination for California only. They did. This being the case, should our Board of Geologists and Geophysicists (BGG) resign from ASBOG? California withdrawal would sink ASBOG's ship as California contributes one half the finances needed to administer 27 other ASBOG states. California, with its geologic complexities, is a different animal than ASBOG member states. How many earthquakes over Magnitude 6 regularly occur in ASBOG's member states? None. How many states license Geophysicists who apply their profession evaluating active faults for design of buildings, nuclear plants, dam sites etc.? None. Has our OER, Focus Group, and BGG lost sight of California's public health, safety and welfare? I believe so.”

Another member wrote:

“What a seemingly terrible decision. Why do geologists practicing in California not need to show that they know anything about California geology? Was this deemed too restrictive by the legal end of things?”

Exactly. One of the main arguments presented was that the CSE amounted to restraint of trade. A member of the Oregon Board of Geologist Examiners testified to that effect to the BGG, and cited that reason, among others, for eliminating the Oregon Specific exam. California is currently the only State that has a State-specific exam. Oregon dropped their's last year. The Board, along with the State Office of Examination Resources, determined that they should be testing competency in the applicant's ability to practice rather than their knowledge. So the exam should test skills, rather than education. It's another example of the direction we are going in: where just "good enough" has become an acceptable standard. The Country used to look to California as setting the standard for geologic practice. By catering to the lowest common denominator we follow where we once led.

The Board was able to approve eliminating the CSE by providing an argument on a legal and process basis. Our arguments are philosophical, and thus are not defensible on legal grounds. There is no legal requirement for a person to have an education, but a person who obtains one is a better citizen and is better able to contribute to society. It's the same with the CSE; geologists who are knowledgeable about the local geology are better equipped to serve their clients. The geologist from out of State (or even out of local area) may be competent, but without the local knowledge may be less able to provide efficient service to their client because significant additional time is required to become familiar with local geologic conditions, codes, and policies.

Another dominant argument presented was that the CSE is time consuming and difficult to administer. How is the CSE any more difficult to administer than the old registration exam (prior to ASBOG)? I don't recall there being complaints about it during its 30+ years in existence.

And one last email from a member:

"I truly am saddened to hear that the CSE was eliminated. It is a bitter pill to swallow that it was so quickly and unanimously passed by the Board. Effectively, the Board has now lowered the bar even further. If nothing else, the CSE at least provided some preparation to geologists wishing to practice in responsible charge in the state by, at minimum, introducing candidates to the geological issues that are regionally important toward a geologists' successful practice in the State. The exam is supposed to be hard...it's supposed to be an achievement to be proud of. Now take the ASBOG and bingo, practice in California, no big deal. Who cares about any of the local/regional issues anyway, right? What, no knowledge of California or west coast geology whatsoever? Who cares, we take anyone (from Bangor to Los Angeles, it's all just covered with a bunch of dirt and rock anyway - it's all the same)! I guess Oregon and Washington should go ahead and follow California's attempts at mediocrity as well. [OR and WA beat us to the punch!] For that matter, why not eliminate ASBOG all together? What's the big deal about getting licensed anymore anyway, right? Join the AIPG, get a free registration in Alaska, no exam needed, not really even any Board there to answer to. Great idea! Eliminate the meddlesome bureaucracy!"

Let's look at the ASBOG: the ASBOG was touted as more than sufficient to demonstrate competence. But is it? Have a look at the "Tasks of a Professional Geologist" brochure (<http://www.asbog.org/>) prepared by ASBOG and based on a Task Analysis done in 2000 (an update task analysis was recently completed, but the "Tasks of a Professional Geologist" is dated December, 2004). This list was provided at the last BGG meeting, and, along with the 2000 and 2005 task analyses, provided a basis for my argument that the ASBOG does not adequately represent the practice of engineering geology in southern California. The Hydrogeology/Environmental Geochemistry section has several very specific types of tasks described. But the Engineering Geology, Geomorphology, and Structural Geology sections only allude to fault and landslide investigations. The word "fault" is used only **once** in the Structural Geology section: "Map, interpret, and monitor fault movement." The word "landslide" is **never** mentioned. If the Task Analysis on which the ASBOG is based does not consider landslide and fault investigations to be worthy of study and investigation, does the public benefit from having these "licensed" geologists practicing in this State?

As Mr. Sweeney discusses above, a few legislative hurdles remain before the CSE can disappear. Unfortunately these are low hurdles. If the CSE is eliminated and the ASBOG is all we are left with, then pressure must be placed on ASBOG to include what engineering geologists should be expected to know about, not only how geologists in the rest of the Country practice. Without fault and landslide investigative ability being required of geologists, the public protection afforded by the BGG becomes suspect. Buzz tells us that California represents about 50% of the ASBOG budget. If that is so, there should be tremendous power to exert.

State of California

## Memorandum

Date: November 15, 2005

To: Paul Sweeney, Executive Officer  
Board for Geologists and Geophysicists

From: Department of Consumer Affairs  
Office of Examination Resources

Subject: California Specific Examination

The purpose of this memo is to provide recommendations from the Office of Examination Resources (OER) to the Board for Geologists and Geophysicists (Board) for consideration in response to the suggestions from the California Specific Examination (CSE) focus group workshop held on October 6 and 7, 2005.

Based on the results and suggestions from the CSE focus group workshop presented in the OER memo dated November 15, 2005, the OER recommends that the Board:

1. Rescind the licensure requirement that a professional geologist candidate must pass the CSE.
2. Compile the information recommended by the focus group for incorporation into a candidate handbook. Work with the OER to write topic area questions and feedback answers into the handbook. Institute a requirement that the candidate must answer the questions and return them to the Board in a signed document for licensure.
3. Continue to monitor enforcement rates. If it appears that a lack of California-specific knowledge is negatively impacting consumer health and safety (i.e., incompetent geology practice), then reinstate the supplemental licensure examination.

If you have any questions regarding these recommendations, you can contact me at (916) 322-2730.

S/  
Tracy A. Montez, Ph.D., Chief

Cc: Sherry Mehl  
Nancy Hall

State of California

# Memorandum

Date: November 15, 2005

To: Paul Sweeney, Executive Officer  
Board for Geologists and Geophysicists

From: Department of Consumer Affairs  
Office of Examination Resources

Subject: CSE Focus Group Summary

## ***Purpose***

The Board for Geologists and Geophysicists (Board) recruited seven licensed, professional geologists to participate in a focus group workshop for the purpose of making a recommendation to the Board regarding the future of the California Specific Examination (CSE) as a requirement for the licensure of geologists in California. The Office of Examination Resources (OER) facilitated this two-day workshop on October 6 and 7, 2005, in Sacramento. Of the seven licensed participants or subject matter experts (SMEs), three had been licensed since 2000 by passing the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) examination and the CSE; three had been licensed between 1990 and 1999 by passing the Board-generated geologist examination; and one had been granted an examination exemption for licensure in 2005 based on California's reciprocity with Florida. The Board Examination Coordinator also attended the workshop to address any Board related questions.

## ***Process***

The group diligently reviewed, discussed, and evaluated pertinent documentation. This included the history of the CSE, the concerns and recommendations from the Board, professional geologists, candidates, and public pertaining to licensure requirements, the effectiveness of the ASBOG and CSE licensure examinations, and how these related to the health and safety of the public.

After extensive group discussion, the SMEs unanimously agreed that:

- The current ASBOG examination adequately tests the minimal acceptable level of competence for geologists seeking licensure.
- The current CSE does not serve the purpose of the Board and Legislature as a licensing requirement.
- All geologists licensed to practice in the state of California would be expected to know and apply the *critical* (identified) state laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to the profession of geology.
- All geologists licensed to practice in the state of California would be expected to know and apply the *critical* geological uniqueness of California that could affect the health and safety of the public.

The group agreed that the current format of CSE does not appear to satisfy the purpose of the legislation, which was to evaluate the candidate's knowledge of the most critical state laws, rules, and regulations and the unique seismicity and geological issues of California in a fair and valid manner.

The group also agreed that the ASBOG does provide a comprehensive and valid (legally defensible) examination for the general practice of geology.

***Group Responses to the Board Recommendations***

*The California-Specific Exam – A Value Appraisal* document provided three recommendations from the Board (quoted in italics below) prior to the focus group workshop:

1. *At the time of licensure, send the new licensee documentation addressing California laws, regulations and issues such as the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act, the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act, the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act and the Geologist and Geophysicist Act. Also include two sheets, both to be notarized by the new licensee, one to be kept by that individual with the other one mailed back to the BGG along with their initial licensing fees indicating receipt of and comprehension of the laws and regulations to which they must comply. This notarized copy will be placed in the new licensee's file in perpetuity prior to the paper work being processed for issuance of the license number, wall certificate and the pocket license.*

Group Response: Even though this recommendation specifies that the candidate become familiar with the same critical information suggested by the group, it does not provide an interactive format that specifically addresses that the candidate must have *demonstrated* knowledge of the required content area topics.

2. *Hire a psychometrician, with the assistance of OER, and creat a working group of volunteers, under the direction of the Board and its Examination Committee, to create a relevant, statistically correct and legally defensible CSE.*

Group Response: The group concluded that the current ASBOG adequately tests a candidate in geology and that an additional state licensure examination does not ensure that the candidate has knowledge of critical California-specific information. A self-administered, education tool would better serve the purpose of the law.

3. *Take no action and maintain the staus quo... {retain the CSE}.*

Group Response: Taking no action would allow the continued use of a supplemental licensure examination, which in its current form, does not serve the purpose of the Board and Legislature as a licensing requirement.



***Focus Group Results***

The group suggested that the current CSE be discontinued as an examination requirement for licensure and that it be replaced with an “educational tool.” The purpose of this educational tool would be to familiarize the candidate with selected topics. In other words, change the licensure examination based on minimal acceptable competency to that of an educational-based process that identifies critical knowledge for the candidate.

The group recommended that the following topics be referenced:

1. The Geologists and Geophysicists Act (rules and regulations)
2. The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act (fault zone mapping)
3. The Porter-Cologne Act (water quality protection)
4. The Seismic Hazards Mapping Act (seismic mapping)
5. The California Well Standards (well construction)
6. The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (mining rights)
7. California-specific geology as it relates to public health and safety as illustrated by historical events and geological locations

The focus group also recommended that the new education tool be in the form of a reference handbook to include the information specified above. Questions would accompany each topic area, and the answers would be provided for each question as feedback to the candidate. This process would allow the candidate to demonstrate an awareness of critical knowledge identified with the expectation that this critical knowledge would be applied when practicing geology in California.

The group’s preferred mode of delivery of the handbook and accompanying questions would be through the Board’s web site where the test could be self-administered by the candidate. This method would provide maximum availability and timeliness of completion. If Board budget constraints prevent this, then the handbook and questions should be provided to the candidate as a mailed hardcopy document.

If you have any questions regarding this memo, you can contact me at (916) 322-2703.

S/

Nancy L. Linn  
Personnel Selection Consultant

Cc: Sherry Mehl  
Nancy Hall

# 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on Engineering Geology & Geotechnical Engineering

May 24-26, 2006, Utah State University, Logan, Utah

Announcement and Call for Papers

Theme  
Landslides - Investigation, Analysis, and  
Mitigation

<http://www.isu.edu/engineer/geosym/>

## **OVERVIEW OF THE SYMPOSIUM**

The goal of this symposium is to provide engineering geologists, geotechnical engineers, and government professionals with the opportunity to exchange information on state-of-the-art practices in landslide investigation, analysis, and mitigation. The symposium will consist of invited speakers, contributed papers, and poster sessions. Although the theme of the symposium is landslides, papers on all engineering geology and geotechnical engineering topics are encouraged.

## **SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHTS**

- Geotechnical Engineering Keynote Address Michael Duncan, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
- Geological Keynote Address William Cotton, Cotton Shires and Associates
- Slope Stability Analysis Keynote Address Sunil Sharma, The University of Idaho
- Landslide Field Trip
- Latest Advances in Landslide Mitigation
- Selection of Strength Parameters for Analysis
- Seismic Slope Stability
- Recent Advances in Landslide Monitoring Technology
- Student Paper Contest
- Landslide Photograph Contest

...40<sup>TH</sup> Annual Symposium continued

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

Although the theme of the symposium is "Landslides -- Investigation, Analysis, and Mitigation," papers are welcome in all areas of engineering geology and geotechnical engineering. Case studies on landslides are especially encouraged. Abstracts should be submitted to:

James A. Bay  
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering  
Utah State University  
Logan, Utah 84322-4110  
Jim.bay@usu.edu

by January 20, 2006. Abstracts should be approximately 250 words and may be submitted by email. Authors will be notified of acceptance by e-mail by February 10, 2006. A camera-ready digital copy of the paper will be due by April 7, 2006.

### **STUDENT PAPER CONTEST**

Students submitting papers for the student paper contest must be the first author of the paper, and the student must present the paper at the symposium. Indicate on the abstract if the paper is to be entered in the contest. Cash prizes will be awarded for winning papers.

### **LANDSLIDE PHOTO CONTEST**

Landslide photographs for the photo contest must be submitted in jpg format by April 7, 2005. Include a brief caption describing the photograph. Photographs will be included in the symposium proceedings and displayed at the venue.

### **REGISTRATION**

The registration for the symposium will be \$135. Student registration is \$35. Student banquet tickets will be an additional \$20. There will be an additional cost of \$35 for the field trip. This includes transportation, meals. Additional registration information can be found at <http://www.isu.edu/engineer/geosym/>.

### **LODGING AND TRANSPORTATION**

Lodging is available at the University Inn on the USU campus for \$58-\$65 plus tax per night. Call 800-231-5634. Other accommodations include the Best Western Weston Inn (435) 752-6187, Comfort Inn (435) 752-9141, The Hampton Inn (435) 713-4567, and the Crystal Inn (435) 752-0707. Ground transportation from the Salt Lake International airport is available through Cache Valley Airport Shuttle (435) 563-6400.

### **SPONSORS**

The Utah Geological Society (UGS), The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), The Association of Engineering Geologists (AEG), Utah State University, Idaho State University, The University of Idaho, Boise State University, The University of Nevada Reno, The University of Nevada Las Vegas, and Montana Technical University.

<b>AGI GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS ACTION ALERT</b>
--

### Encourage Members of Congress to Join Hazards Caucus

The Congressional Hazards Caucus, a bicameral caucus of congressional members concerned about natural and man-made hazards has sent letters to their colleagues in the House and Senate inviting more members to join the caucus. Currently the caucus membership includes 16 senators and 7 representatives, and is led by four co-chairs from each chamber. The Senate co-chairs are Ted Stevens (R-AK), Mary Landrieu (D-LA), Jim DeMint (R-SC) and Ben Nelson (D-NE) and the House co-chairs are Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD), Dennis Moore (D-KS), Jo Bonner (R-AL) and Zoe Lofgren (D-CA). The caucus provides congressional members with information and education on preparing for, mitigating against and responding to natural disasters and man-made hazards. The caucus provides members with an opportunity to demonstrate their concern and commitment to reducing hazard losses. Jurisdiction for hazards programs is spread among many committees in Congress. Each committee only handles a piece of the overall efforts to prevent and mitigate hazards. A caucus can provide the "big picture" to interested lawmakers and their staff, and give them the opportunity to see how the issues that fall within individual committee jurisdictions fit within a larger national effort. Typical caucus events include Capitol Hill luncheon briefings, roundtable discussions, special forums, receptions, and events targeted to a subgroup of the caucus. Events can be structured so that they also provide a forum for raising the visibility of a hazards-related topic with the media and the public. The caucus is for education, networking and information-gathering and does not advocate for any specific legislative objectives.

AGI and many Member Societies (AASG, AGU, GSA and SSA) belong to the Hazards Caucus Alliance, a network of professional, scientific, and engineering societies, relief organizations, higher education associations, trade associations, and private companies that works to promote the goals of the caucus. The primary goal of the Alliance is to develop a wider understanding within Congress that reducing the risks and costs of natural disasters, as well as man-made hazards, is a public value. That requires educating Members and staff about the costs of these disasters to their districts and states, and the benefits their constituents will realize through greater efforts to understand, prevent, and mitigate all hazards. The alliance supports the efforts of the caucus, originally established under the leadership of co-chairs Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK) and Senator John Edwards (D-NC) in 2000. A successful caucus reflects a strong partnership between its congressional members and organizations outside Congress that share similar interests. This effort is an outgrowth of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) forums on public policy issues in natural disaster reduction, a cooperative endeavor of the National Science and Technology Council's Subcommittee on Natural Disaster Reduction, the Institute for Business and Home Safety, and other private sector organizations.

Please write letters (sent by fax or email) or call members of your congressional delegation and encourage them to join the caucus if they are not already members. A list of the current members is available on the alliance web site at [www.hazardscaucus.org](http://www.hazardscaucus.org). Hazards affect the entire country and as the recent hurricanes have shown, we need to prepare for, mitigate against and respond to disasters on individual, local, state and federal levels. Below are some sample letters, one for the House and one for the Senate. You are welcome to add a paragraph introducing yourself and providing more specific reasons for your senator or representative to join the caucus. Please note that the House returns from its Thanksgiving recess on December 5 and the Senate returns from its recess on December 12. Letters sent to Washington that arrive when the member is back in DC may receive more immediate attention. Congress will adjourn for the year on December 16.

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_:

I am writing to encourage you to join the Congressional Hazards Caucus. The caucus provides members with an opportunity to demonstrate their concern and commitment to reducing hazard losses. Jurisdiction for hazards programs is spread among many committees in Congress. Each committee only handles a piece of the overall efforts to prevent and mitigate hazards. A caucus can provide the "big picture" to interested lawmakers and their staff, and give them the opportunity to see how the issues that fall within individual committee jurisdictions fit within a larger national effort. The caucus is for education, networking and information-gathering and does not advocate for any specific legislative objectives.

A Dear Colleague Letter is being circulated in the Senate, inviting members to join the Caucus. For more information, please contact Ben Billings of Senator Landrieu's staff at 224-5824.

Sincerely,

---

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_:

I am writing to encourage you to join the Congressional Hazards Caucus. The caucus provides members with an opportunity to demonstrate their concern and commitment to reducing hazard losses. Jurisdiction for hazards programs is spread among many committees in Congress. Each committee only handles a piece of the overall efforts to prevent and mitigate hazards. A caucus can provide the "big picture" to interested lawmakers and their staff, and give them the opportunity to see how the issues that fall within individual committee jurisdictions fit within a larger national effort. The caucus is for education, networking and information-gathering and does not advocate for any specific legislative objectives.

A Dear Colleague Letter is being circulated in the House, inviting members to join the Caucus. For more information, please contact Laura Hall of Rep. Moore's staff at 225-2865 or Kelle Strickland of Rep. Bonner's staff at 225-4931.

Sincerely,

---

For more information about the caucus and the alliance visit:  
<http://www.hazardscaucus.org>

**The Board for Geologists and Geophysicists hereby adopts amendments to Section 3005 of Title 16, California Code of Regulations, Division 29 as follows:**

§3005. Fees.

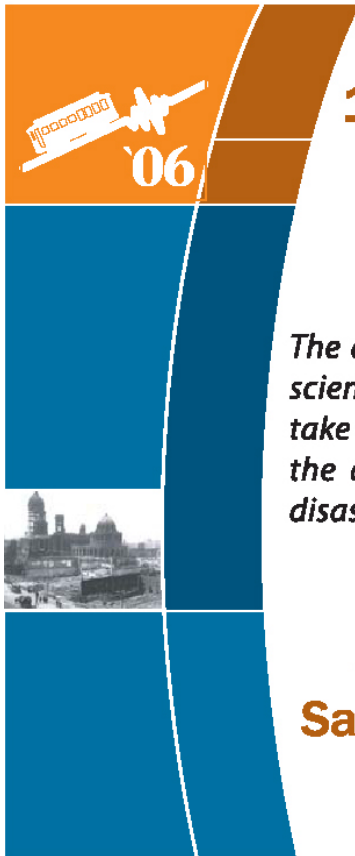
(a) All fees required by provisions of the code and rules of the board shall be transmitted by money order, bank draft or check, payable to the Board for Geologists and Geophysicists.

(b) Fees.

The following schedule of fees is hereby adopted pursuant to Section 7887 of the Code:

- (1) Each application for registration as a geologist or a geophysicist \$250.00
  - (2) Each application for registration as a specialty geologist or specialty geophysicist \$250.00
  - (3) The temporary registration fee for a geologist, geophysicist or specialty geologist or specialty geophysicist \$80.00
  - (4) Each examination including both sections of the national examination and the California specific supplemental examination for registration as a geologist \$300.00
  - (5) Each examination including only the practice of geology portion of the national examination for registration as a geologist \$150.00
  - (6) Each examination including only the fundamentals of geology portion of the national examination for registration as a geologist \$150.00
  - (7) Each examination including only the practice of geology portion of the national examination and the supplemental examination covering California specific subjects for registration as a geologist \$250.00
  - (8) Each examination including only the fundamentals of geology portion of the national examination and the supplemental examination covering California specific subjects for registration as a geologist \$250.00
  - (9) Each supplemental examination covering California specific subjects for registration as a geologist \$100.00
  - (10) Each examination for registration as a geophysicist \$100.00
  - (11) Each examination for registration as a specialty geologist or specialty geophysicist \$100.00
  - (12) The duplicate certificate fee \$6.00
  - (13) The renewal fee for a geologist or for a geophysicist \$270.00
  - (14) The renewal fee for a specialty geologist or for a specialty geophysicist \$67.50
  - (15) The delinquency fee for renewal of certificate of registration as a geologist or geophysicist or certification as a specialty geologist or specialty geophysicist is 50% of the renewal fee in effect on the last regular renewal date.
- (c) When transmitted through the mail, fees required under provisions of this rule shall be deemed filed on the date shown by the post office cancellation mark appearing on the envelope containing the fee.
- (d) An applicant for registration as a geologist or geophysicist or an applicant for certification as a specialty geologist or specialty geophysicist who fails an examination shall pay only the examination fees pursuant to subsections (b)(4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10) and (11) to reapply to take the examination within four years of the failed examination.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 7818, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 7887, Business and Professions Code.



# 100th Anniversary Earthquake Conference

## MANAGING RISK IN EARTHQUAKE COUNTRY

*The anniversary of the 1906 Earthquake is a valuable opportunity for earth scientists, engineers, policy makers, emergency responders and businesses to take stock of how well we are protecting our communities and mitigating the dangers associated with earthquakes. Please join us for the premier disaster mitigation conference in 2006.*

**April 18 - 22, 2006**  
**San Francisco, California**  
**Moscone Center**

The conference is co-convened by:



**[www.1906eqconf.org](http://www.1906eqconf.org)**

### Chapter Meetings

#### **Inland Empire:**

January Meeting: Wednesday, January 18

Time: 5:00 to 8:30

Location: Marie Calenders Restaurant, Redlands

Speaker: Dr. Peter K. Robertson

Presentation Topic: "Sixty years of the CPT – How far have we come?"

Please visit the Inland Empire web page at <http://www.aegsc.org/chapters/inlandempire/> for additional meeting information and directions.

#### **Central Coast:**

Monthly meetings will take place on the last Wednesday of every month at Rusty's Pizza in Goleta. Social hour begins at 6 pm, the meeting begins at 7pm.

For more information or to be added to the CA Central Coast Chapter email list, please contact Robert Urban via email at [robert\\_urban@urscorp.com](mailto:robert_urban@urscorp.com).

#### **San Diego:**

January Meeting: Tuesday, January 17

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Butcher Shop Restaurant, San Diego

Speaker: Sandi Marcshall, Pure Effect

Presentation Topic: "Groundwater Dewatering in Downtown San Diego"

For the latest information visit <http://www.aegsc.org/chapters/extremesocal/>

**National Business Donation**

- Platinum - \$1,000
- Gold - \$500
- Silver - \$250

Company name, address and contact information are presented in AEG News and section receives 10% of donation. A national donation does not yield a line in our local section newsletter.

**Company & Employment Advertising**

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year</u>
▪ Business Card	\$10	\$100
▪ ¼ Page	\$20	\$200
▪ ½ Page	\$35	\$350
▪ Full Page	\$50	\$500

\* The deadline for submitting an advertisement for next month’s newsletter is Wednesday, January 25.

**YEAR 2006 CONTRIBUTORS NEEDED**

Contributions from corporations and individual members are greatly appreciated. Contributors will be listed in our newsletter throughout the year and can post their logo or business card in the newsletter if so desired. Please mail contributions made out to **AEG** to our section treasurer, Rosalind Munro.

**2006 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

For those of you who have not yet renewed **(the deadline was November 1)**, are unsure about your membership status, or did not receive your membership dues statement, please contact AEG Headquarters at [www.aegweb.org](http://www.aegweb.org). You can renew your membership online. Please update your membership if you wish to continue to receive future issues of the newsletter.



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES & ADVERTISING



Petra Geotechnical is currently seeking experienced geotechnical engineers, geologists, environmental scientists and soils technicians in our Costa Mesa, Santa Clarita, Murrieta and San Diego offices. We offer competitive salaries and excellent benefits. Please contact Linda Becker, Human Resources Manager, at 714/549-8921 or submit your resume by email to [lbecker@petra-inc.com](mailto:lbecker@petra-inc.com)

*EUC*

**Eberhart / United Consultants**, a southern California geotechnical consulting firm serving its clients for over 25 years, has the following career opportunities:

**PROJECT GEOLOGIST:** position requires BS with 3 years experience in public/civil works, commercial and residential projects. Duties include field mapping, subsurface exploration, office analysis, proposal and report preparation, and project management.

**SENIOR ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST:** position requires CEG registration and 8 years experience in public/civil works, commercial and residential projects. Duties include managing/performing geologic investigations, field mapping, subsurface exploration, office analysis, proposal and report preparation, and project management.

We offer a competitive compensation & benefits package for qualified candidates. For immediate consideration, mail, FAX, or email your resume & salary history to:

*Eberhart / United Consultants*  
1031 Segovia Circle  
Placentia, CA 92870  
FAX (714) 632-0955  
[dre@euc-inc.com](mailto:dre@euc-inc.com)

### Concrete Forensics

**Specializing in petrographic analysis of  
concrete**

[concreteforensics@yahoo.com](mailto:concreteforensics@yahoo.com)

310 W. Valencia Mesa Dr. #10  
Fullerton, CA 92835  
714.402.6383

### PACIFIC SOILS ENGINEERING, INC.

"Pacific Soils Engineering, Inc., is seeking a project level engineering geologist with 3+ years of hillside grading experience. Tasks to include management of large mass grading projects in Los Angeles/Orange/Ventura Counties. Must demonstrate a thorough knowledge of current grading standards and geologic engineering principles, possess good verbal communication and writing skills, and be able to direct field technicians and grading personnel. Registration not required. Please fax resume to 714/220-9589, or email: [info@pacificsoils.com](mailto:info@pacificsoils.com), attention Manager of Geologic Services."

Environmental



our water cooler

[ Feel free to linger ]

The Freedom to Grow: It is ours at Tetra Tech EM Inc. (EMI), a leading environmental and management consulting firm. As an organization of entrepreneurs, creative thinkers, and problem solvers, we provide a free market for initiative and risk taking, where each team member has the freedom and responsibility to create opportunity for themselves and the business. Join us, we're currently seeking the following professionals for our local **San Francisco, CA** office:

Mid-Senior Level  
**ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST  
 ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
 OR HYDROGEOLOGIST**

• EMI-SF-84 •

Responsibilities include preparing, conducting, & providing technical evaluation of remedial investigations, feasibility studies, & remedial designs; fieldwork/subcontractor oversight; and interaction with clients, including regulatory agency negotiations, & consulting support.

Qualified individuals will possess: B.S. in Geology/Hydrogeology or Environmental/Civil/Mining Eng; M.S. is a plus; 5-10+ yrs exp with environmental consulting firm or related; project & construction mgmt; RI/FS CERCLA; groundwater/soil sampling, groundwater modeling, remedial design, preparation of plans, specs, & cost estimates exp; and 40-hr HAZWOPER training. Additional requirements include strong technical writing abilities; strong exp in managing fixed price contracts & managing project financials; and a self-starter working within a team environment with the ability to lead and mentor a team & manage fast-paced work. Registration (PE, CEG, PG) pref'd.

Mid-Senior Level  
**HYDROGEOLOGIST**

• EMI-SF-83 •

Responsibilities include providing senior technical input and reviews for RIs, FSs, PPs, & RODs developed under CERCLA. Candidate will manage teams in the execution of fieldwork, acquisition of data, interpretation of data, development of technical recommendations, cost estimates, remedial designs, & preparation of reports. Candidate will interact daily with clients, frequently meet with regulatory agencies, manage fixed price budgets, & mentor project staff.

Qualified individuals will possess: B.S. in Hydrogeology or Geology, advanced degrees pref'd; ability to write & review technical documents; 10+ yrs relevant exp; exp managing projects under federal cleanup programs such as CERCLA & TSCA; and demonstrated exp in field investigations involving monitoring well installation, soil/groundwater sampling, & contractor oversight. Must be a registered geologist in CA with 10+ yrs of exp in environmental consulting or related field. Recent exp in preparing RIs, FSs, PPs, & RODs and exp in groundwater remediation, monitoring system design/installation, & surface water hydrology is desirable. An understanding and working knowledge of multiple disciplines within the environmental engineering field including air quality, soils & groundwater assessment, hazardous materials or hazardous waste is pref'd.

To view complete job descriptions, please visit [www.ttemi.com](http://www.ttemi.com)

We are empowered to use our talents and live our dreams. We envision. We innovate. That's serious work. To apply, e-mail resume & cover letter (indicating position of interest or EMI # listed above) to:

Tetra Tech EM Inc. (EMI)  
 Attn: HR  
 135 Main Street, Suite 1800  
 San Francisco, CA 94105  
 Fax: 415-543-5480  
 E-mail: [Resumes.sf@ttemi.com](mailto:Resumes.sf@ttemi.com)



**Tetra Tech EM Inc.**



*There's magic in our air...  
 water and soil.*

EOE/AA  
[www.ttemi.com](http://www.ttemi.com)  
 No calls or agencies

**William Lettis & Associates, Inc. (WLA)** is a successful and growing California-based earth-science consulting firm of 20+ employees, specializing in seismic hazard assessments. We are seeking to fill several technical positions in our Walnut Creek, Valencia or southeastern U.S. office locations for Geologists (Senior and Staff), and GIS Analysts.

Please visit the Careers section of our website at [www.lettis.com](http://www.lettis.com) for a complete job description and more information about WLA.

All interested candidates, please reply by e-mail or fax, include a cover letter, resume and salary requirements. Email to: [HR@lettis.com](mailto:HR@lettis.com) or fax to: 925-256-6076. WLA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



Ninyo & Moore Geotechnical and Environmental Sciences Consultants has immediate openings for Staff, Senior Staff, and Project Geologists and Geotechnical Engineers in their Irvine office. Submit resumes to: Ninyo & Moore, 475 Goddard, Suite 200, Irvine, CA 92618; Attention: Ms. Ruth Dolecki (EOE). Please visit us at our web site at:

[www.ninyoandmoore.com](http://www.ninyoandmoore.com).

### Positions Available for Project Level Geologists

**SubSurface Designs, Inc.**, an established Los Angeles geotechnical engineering firm, is seeking Project Level Geologists. The right qualified, independent and hard-working individual will be offered an excellent salary, profit sharing and benefit package commensurate with their experience. Equal Opportunity Employer.

For consideration, fax or email your resume in confidence to:

SubSurface Designs, Inc.  
818-898-1595 (office)  
818-898-4003 (facsimile)  
[mark@subsurfacedesigns.com](mailto:mark@subsurfacedesigns.com)



URS Corporation, a nationwide, multidisciplinary consulting firm and the largest design firm in the country, is seeking qualified candidates for the following positions for their San Diego operations:

**Tunnel Inspector (Requisition # URS7001):** Inspector with 5 to 10 years of experience in monitoring tunnel construction. Should be familiar with underground construction techniques and logging of ground conditions.

**Geotechnical Engineer (Requisition #URS6802):** Civil/Geotechnical Engineer with 0 to 5 years of experience in consulting engineering firm; preferably with master's degree. Responsible for planning field and laboratory programs, engineering analyses, and report preparation.

**Engineering Geologist (Requisition #URS6997):** Geologist/Engineering Geologist with 0 to 5 years of experience in consulting engineering firm; preferably with master's degree. Responsible for supervising field explorations, geologic mapping, and report preparation.

Please apply on-line at: <http://www.urscorp.com/careers/index.html> and submit resumes to [christine\\_eary@urscorp.com](mailto:christine_eary@urscorp.com) or: Christine Eary, URS Corporation  
1615 Murray Canyon Road, Suite 1000, San Diego, CA 92108



## GEOTECHNICAL ■ ENVIRONMENTAL ■ MATERIALS

Geocon is a full-service, employee-owned firm providing geotechnical, environmental and geologic engineering services, as well as construction observation and materials testing services for a wide variety of public and private clients. To share in our continued growth and success we are seeking qualified professionals for the following fields:

### SENIOR STAFF GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER

Senior Staff Geotechnical Engineer with 2 to 4 years experience. BSCE required, MSCE preferred. Registration desirable. Experience in land development a plus.

### PROJECT GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER

Project Geotechnical Engineer with 3 to 5 years experience. BSCE required, MSCE preferred. Registration required. Experience in land development a plus.

### ENGINEERING FIELD TECHNICIAN

Engineering Field Technician with 2+ years experience desired but not mandatory. Land development and/or hillside experience a plus.

### STAFF ENGINEER/GEOLOGIST

Staff Engineer/Geologist with 2 to 4 years experience. BS required, MS preferred. California registration (PE/PG) desirable. Must have previous experience with Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments, remediation experience a plus.

### PROJECT ENGINEER/GEOLOGIST

Project Engineer/Geologist with 4 to 7 years experience. BS required, MS preferred. CA Registration (PE/PG) required, REA II a plus. Must have previous experience with Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments, and corrective action.

Excellent oral and written communication skills required. Geocon offers excellent benefits, compensation package and growth opportunity. For more information please contact one of the following offices:

#### Bakersfield

Geocon Inland Empire, Inc.  
3501 Pegasus Drive  
Bakersfield, California 93308  
(661) 399-3365 Tel  
(661) 399-3812 Fax

#### Burbank

Geocon Inland Empire, Inc.  
3303 N. San Fernando Blvd., Suite 100  
Burbank, California 91504  
(818) 841-8388 Tel  
(818) 841-1704 Fax

#### Murrieta

Geocon Inland Empire, Inc.  
41571 Coming Place, Suite 101  
Murrieta, California 92562  
(951) 304-2300 Tel  
(951) 304-2392 Fax

#### San Diego

Geocon Incorporated  
6960 Flanders Drive  
San Diego, California 92121  
(858) 558-6900 Tel  
(858) 558-6159 Fax

Additional offices in Las Vegas, Reno, Portland, Livermore and Sacramento.  
Please see our website for more information:  
[WWW.GEOCONINC.COM](http://WWW.GEOCONINC.COM)

*Success Built on Service*

**2006  
Short Course**

## The Latest Developments in Environmental and Geotechnical IN SITU TESTING

Gregg In Situ, Inc. is pleased to announce the scheduling of two short courses on the latest developments in the use of in situ testing with emphasis on cone penetration testing (CPT) in environmental and geotechnical site investigations.

These short courses will provide engineers and geologists with the knowledge and background to plan and supervise site investigations and to interpret CPT, SPT and PMT data. Emphasis will be given to recent advances and regulatory requirements in the area of liquefaction potential determination and remedial design considerations.



Earn  
PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
HOURS  
(PDH's)  
by attending.

**Monday - March 6, 2006**

**Hilton Long Beach**  
701 West Ocean Blvd.  
Long Beach, California 90831

**8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**  
Registration/continental breakfast at 8:00 a.m.

Environmental or Geotechnical Short Course

**COURSES ALSO OFFERED IN:**

- SACRAMENTO: FEBRUARY 22ND
- OAKLAND: FEBRUARY 24TH
- SAN DIEGO: MARCH 7TH

Both Environmental & Geotechnical courses will be conducted simultaneously. Register for one course only.

**Long Beach, California**

**COURSE INSTRUCTOR:**  
**Peter Robertson, Ph.D.**  
Gregg In Situ, Inc.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
Visit our web site for details on course instructors, content, locations or to print additional registration forms.

Gregg In Situ, Inc.  
Web Site: [www.greggdrilling.com](http://www.greggdrilling.com)  
Phone: (562) 427-6899  
Fax: (562) 427-3314



**2006 SHORT COURSE REGISTRATION FORM — LONG BEACH**

Payment must be received by **Jan. 23, 2006** to qualify for early registration.

\$195.00 - early registration fee OR \$270.00 - late registration fee  
Course Date: Monday - March 6, 2006

(Indicate course attending by checking the corresponding box. Register for one course only.)

Environmental Site Investigation OR  Geotechnical Site Investigation

Mail/Fax your completed registration form to:

(Make checks payable to: Gregg In Situ, Inc.;  
If faxing please include a copy of check)

**GREGG IN SITU, INC.** ATTN: Maryann Keating  
2726 Walnut Ave. E-MAIL: [mkeating@greggdrilling.com](mailto:mkeating@greggdrilling.com)  
Signal Hill, CA 90755

Attendee Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Company/Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

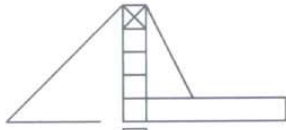
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment information must be completed for processing: (Check one)  My check # \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Charge my credit card in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  AMEX  VISA  MasterCard Card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holder Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee includes seminar, reference materials, continental breakfast, lunch, break refreshments, and hotel parking. Class size is limited; early registration is advised. On-site registration will be on a space available basis. Gregg In Situ, Inc. reserves the right to cancel any seminar. In the event of such a cancellation, a full refund will be issued to registrant. Registrant will incur a \$75 charge if he/she cancels within 10 business days of the seminar. No refund of registration fees will be offered if notice of intent to cancel is received within 3 business days of the seminar. Please submit notice of cancellation or substitution in writing.



## **BEST DRILLING AND PUMP, INC.**

"Our Goal is in our Name"

# WATER WATER WATER

## Agricultural, Construction, Industrial, Municipal, Environmental

We are a full service drilling, pump and well testing company specializing in air, mud, and reverse circulation drilling methods. Typical services include borehole geophysical evaluation, discrete-depth water quality evaluation, well design recommendations (casing material, diameter, slot size and filter pack gradation), well construction, development, permanent pump selection and installation.

Other specialty services include pump service, packer testing, Westbay monitoring systems, aquifer testing, specific capacity testing and well efficiency analysis, chemical treatment, well rehabilitation, abandonment, water treatment and delivery systems.

## **BEST DRILLING AND PUMP, INC.**

Contact: Mark Best, PE, President

Corporate Address: 2950 Oleta Ln, Highland, California 92346

PHONE: 909-425-9998    FAX: 909-494-9597    EMAIL: [bestdril@aol.com](mailto:bestdril@aol.com)

California Contractors License # 826672



**Lawson & Associates**  
**Geotechnical Consulting, Inc.**

**Lawson & Associates Geotechnical Consulting, Inc.**

2045 Royal Avenue, Ste. 125  
Simi Valley, CA 93065  
Tele: (805) 579-3434 Fax: (805) 579-3435  
Email: [kesmond@lqcgeo.com](mailto:kesmond@lqcgeo.com)

1020 Calle Cordillera, Ste. 101  
San Clemente, CA 92673  
Tele: (949) 369-6141 Fax: (949) 369-6142  
Email: [info@lqcgeo.com](mailto:info@lqcgeo.com)

Website: [www.lqcgeo.com](http://www.lqcgeo.com)

LGC is looking for dynamic individuals to join our team and work on some of Orange County's most interesting and technically challenging projects. If you are an experienced geotechnical professional, or just starting your career, please do not hesitate to contact us. All inquiries will be considered in the utmost confidence. We look forward to hearing from you.

AEG Southern California Section  
J. Relyea  
Earth Resources, Inc.  
18302 Sierra Highway, #102  
Santa Clarita, CA 91351