

THE ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

Connecting Professionals, Practice and the Public

SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
SECTION

NEWSLETTER – December 2010

SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
SECTION

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Upcoming Meeting Date: *****No Meeting This Month*****

*****Please stay tuned for information regarding our January meeting at Steven's Steakhouse featuring the Jahn's Lecturer, Dr. Bill Haneberg.**

*****Greetings, AEG members! There is no meeting this month as we prepare for the upcoming holiday season. Please review this month's newsletter below, as it has pertinent information regarding the newly established BPELSG. Happy Holidays to you and your family from the AEG Southern California Section, and see you in the New Year!**



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Chair's Column

By Peter Thams

Hello again Section. We had to cancel our December meeting, where Frank Denison was to speak on the earthquake experienced in and around Christchurch, New Zealand last September. We will reschedule Frank's talk for early spring, either March or April. In the meantime, we will be hosting Dr. Bill Haneberg, our Jahn's Lecturer, in January at Steven's Steakhouse in Commerce. I look forward to seeing you in January and I hope everyone enjoys their holidays.

A decision needs to be made soon on whether to pursue legislation, to re-establish the Board for Geologists and Geophysicists, or to work cooperatively (and aggressively, as needed) with the soon-to-be-renamed Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists to administer the Geologists and Geophysicists Act. Either effort will face significant challenges and uncertainty, and the overriding consideration must be the focus on licensure for the protection of public health and safety. Based on what I have heard from membership within the Section and from representatives of the Northern California Sections, there is no consensus or even a majority opinion on which path to follow. Since AEG is, and has historically been, the leading advocate for geologic licensure in California, and nationwide, it is important that we agree on a plan of action.

Reauthorizing BGG: In order to re-establish BGG, legislation must be sponsored, written, passed by both houses of legislature, and signed by the governor (or at least not vetoed). It is generally felt that Governor-elect Brown would be amenable to a new board for the protection of public safety, but there are no indications that creating one is high on his list of priorities. This means we need to convince legislators, who voted unanimously last year to eliminate the BGG and assign its responsibilities to BPELS, to reverse their positions.

Legislators did act under budgetary duress in the elimination of the BGG and several that we have spoken with (Wyland, Eng, Ducheney, Kerkorian, Hill, et al) believed the process and the

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results were severely flawed, and that remedies were needed. Remedies discussed did include reinstating the BGG when a new Governor was in office, but they also included interim and/or compromise measures like AB1431, and working with BPELS through the budget process, to get representation at and on BPELS. AB1431 also passed unanimously and was signed by the Governor. So in the current political environment we have some legislators who may favor reinstating the BGG, some who may be convinced that more needs to be done to make things workable at BPELS, and *continued opposition to boards in general and the BGG in particular.*

In speaking with our lobbyist, Judy Wolen, it was made clear that little is likely to get through the legislature without the *support* of the Leader of the Senate Pro-Tem, Darryl Steinberg. Senator Steinberg was a key player the elimination of the BGG, and is not likely to have a change of heart. Former Assembly Member Sam Blakeslee, now Senator Blakeslee, often considered a potential ally because he is a Geophysicist, may not be willing reverse his position since he is credited for the last-minute decision to place responsibility for the Act with BPELS instead of with the State Mining and Geology Board. Senator Blakeslee, on the other hand, may be a potential ally in working with BPELSG.

Another issue with regard to pursuing legislation to re-establish BGG is the cost. Although we have for years maintained a lobbying presence in Sacramento, that presence has been limited to monitoring developments related to the BGG and licensure in general, and arranging legislative visits to discuss issues. Virtually the Section's entire operating budget is currently going towards the maintenance of this monitoring level presence. If we want to pursue new legislation, it will require a significant fund raising effort that includes increasing Section dues from \$25 per year to around \$75 per year, at least temporarily. I personally feel this is a small investment to make, but in tough economic times we risk straining and/or losing membership.

Working with BPELSG: The current situation with BPELS (BPELSG) is that AB1431 goes into effect on January 1, 2011, and the current Governor will serve until January 3, 2011. So there is a chance that Governor Schwarzenegger could appoint a geologist to BPELS in that interim period rather than leaving the task to Governor-elect Brown. We've asked Judy Wolen

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to research, advise, and assist with the selection process so that we can be certain that qualified candidates are available for appointment by either Governor at the earliest convenience.

BPELS has submitted their Sunset Review Report which will be heard by the Legislature beginning in February. Part 2 of the report is specific to the Geologists and Geophysicist Act, and contains a number of issues concerning the profession. Of particular note in the report is the need for a geologist registrar on BPELS staff to assist with the day to day operation of the Geology Program, particularly with the growing backlog of enforcement cases. The report states that *"it is essential that the Program be given funding and authority for a Staff Geologist."* BPELS has been repeatedly denied funding for a licensee on staff through the budget process, and hopefully that can be corrected in the Sunset Review Process. Other issues include the cost of examinations, which was addressed in part at the last BPELS meeting where fee increases were proposed and likely approved for most exams, although I need to follow up on that because no one was available to attend that portion of the meeting. The cost of the geophysicists' exam was singled out as a separate issue and reported as a burden because too few people are applying to take the exam (two for the October 2010 exam costing about \$25,000 per examinee) and that the last license issued was in 2008. This issue may (read likely will) trigger a recommendation for an amendment to the Geologists and Geophysicists Act to eliminate licensure for geophysicists altogether. This is a bit of a concern because the need for competent geophysicists in professional practice is not being recognized due to the relatively small size of the geophysical community. Among the reasons stated are the arguments that geophysicists typically are not hired by consumers and the duties include only research and exploration for oil and gas. The geophysical community needs to make their case with regard to the importance of the profession to public health and safety. This is also a concern to the geologic community as a whole because eliminating licensure for geophysicists will require amendments to the Act, and we've seen how easily amendments can go wrong (AB4x 20).

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An unwelcome development at BPELS is the retirement of Dave Brown as Executive Officer. BPELS will be meeting by teleconference on Tuesday, December 14th in closed session to discuss his position and may appoint an interim officer. The meeting is public, but is only expected to last about fifteen minutes in closed session, with an announcement of the results to follow. Although the meeting is public, attending is a little problematic in that board members will be calling in from their homes or places of business. I've been assured, however, that the public is welcome at all meeting sites, with a heads up to the host that can be facilitated by contacting Linda Brown at (916) 263-2238. The meeting agenda is presented below.

Technical Advisory Committee: The TAC is schedule to meet on Wednesday, December 15th, and will be asked to look at sections of Code of Regulations and the Business and Professions Code regarding the relevance and applicability of existing regulations and the definitions of geology and geophysics. This is another unwelcome development because these can be very divisive issues as we've seen recently with the Joint Task Force on Areas of Practice. Any recommendation coming out of this upcoming TAC meeting could go directly into the Sunset Review Process and be written into law without input from the larger geologic community. We'll have to keep up to date on developments from this meeting and be prepared to address any concerns with legislature. The agenda for this meeting is also presented below, along with BPELS newsletter.

BPELSG vs. BGG: It will be difficult to convince legislators, who are focused on streamlining government, that effective administration of the Act is not possible with BPELSG, and that only an independent BGG can protect public health and safety. Legislature has historically been receptive to the need for licensure, but is likely to look at this as an administrative issue and be more willing to correct deficiencies with BPELSG than to start over with a new BGG. I'm hoping membership will give this some thought and provide feedback. You can email me with comments and show up at our next dinner meeting in January, which will happen just prior to tentatively scheduled legislative visits.

**BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS**

2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95833-2944

Telephone: (916) 263-2222 Toll Free: 1-866-780-5370

Facsimile: (916) 263-2246

www.pels.ca.gov

**OFFICIAL NOTICE and AGENDA****MEETING OF THE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS****Tuesday, December 14, 2010, beginning at 10:00 a.m.**

The Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors will hold a Board meeting on Tuesday, December 14, 2010, beginning at 10:00 a.m. via teleconference at the following teleconference sites:

Board for Professional
Engineers and Land Surveyors
2535 Capitol Oaks Dr, Ste 300
Sacramento, CA 95833

David Luzuriaga
26440 La Alameda #310
Mission Viejo, CA 92691

Michael Trujillo
2065 Huntington Drive
San Moreno, CA 91108

Mike Modugno
512 Arbol Verde
Carpinteria, CA 93013

Phil Quartararo
2091 Mandeville Canyon Road
Los Angeles, CA 90049

Ralph K. Davies Medical Center
Physical Rehab Center Annex
Castro & Dubose
South Tower – A Level
San Francisco, CA 94114

Ray Satorre
7216 Mission Street
Daly City, CA 94014

TELECONFERENCE NOTICE (pursuant to Government Code section 11123(b)): One or more Board members may participate in this meeting via teleconference for the benefit of the Board. The public teleconference site(s) will be as noticed in this agenda.

The meeting is open, and the public is invited to attend. The meeting facilities are barrier-free in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. A person who needs disability-related accommodations or modifications in order to participate in the meeting shall make a request by contacting Linda Brown at (916) 263-2238 or email Linda.Brown@dca.ca.gov or sending a written request to Ms. Brown at the Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, 2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 300, Sacramento, California, 95833. Providing your request at least five (5) business days before the meeting will help to ensure availability of the requested accommodations.

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Linda Brown at (916) 263-2238. Electronic copies of this Official Notice and Agenda are available at <http://www.pels.ca.gov>.

NOTE: All times indicated and the orders of business are approximate and subject to change.

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**AGENDA****MEETING OF THE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS****Tuesday, December 14, 2010, beginning at 10:00 a.m.****Board Members: Mike Modugno, President; Jerry Silva, Vice President; Kim Blackseth; James Foley; David Luzuriaga; Philip Quartararo; Ray Satorre; Patrick Tami; Michael Trujillo; and Paul Wilburn.**

- I. Roll Call to Establish a Quorum
- II. Public Comment
NOTE: The Board cannot take action on items not on the agenda.
- III. Closed Session
 - A. Consideration of Continued Employment of the Executive Officer pursuant to Government Code sections 11126(a) and (b)
NOTE: This item may be conducted in Open Session at the request of the Executive Officer pursuant to Government Code section 11126(a)(2).
 - B. Appointment of Interim Executive Officer pursuant to Government Code sections 11126(a) and (b)
 - C. Potential Litigation regarding Examinations pursuant to Government Code sections 11126 (e)(1) and 11126(e)(2)(B)(i)]
- IV. Open Session to Announce the Results of Closed Session
- V. Recruitment of a New Executive Officer (Possible Action)
- VI. Other Items Not Requiring Board Action
- VII. Adjourn

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www.pels.ca.gov**OFFICIAL NOTICE****BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS****MEETING OF THE GEOLOGIST AND GEOPHYSICIST
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive
Third Floor Conference Room
Sacramento, California, 95833
(916) 263-2222**

A meeting of the Geologist and Geophysicist Technical Advisory Committee of the Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors is scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, December 15, 2010, beginning at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors' Offices in Sacramento, California.

The meeting is open and the public is invited to attend. The meeting facilities are barrier-free, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. A person who needs disability-related accommodations or modifications in order to participate in the meeting shall make arrangements by contacting Larry Kereszt at (916) 263-2240 or sending a written request to Mr. Kereszt at the Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, 2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 300, Sacramento, California, 95833. Providing your request at least five (5) business days before the meeting will help to ensure availability of the requested accommodations.

Board Members are not members of the Technical Advisory Committees; however, Technical Advisory Committee meetings may be attended by Board Members.

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Board Staff Liaison Larry Kereszt at (916) 263-2240. Electronic copies of this notice and agenda are available at www.pels.ca.gov

NOTE: All times indicated and the order of business is approximate and subject to change.

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**AGENDA****MEETING OF THE GEOLOGIST AND GEOPHYSICIST
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS**

**Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive - Third Floor Conference Room
Sacramento, California, 95833
(916) 263-2222**

Wednesday, December 15, 2010, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Geologist and Geophysicist Technical Advisory Committee: Members: Thomas F. Barry, P.G., Chair; Hugh S. Robertson, P.G., Vice-Chair; Francisco R. Cabije, P.G.; Eldon M. Gath, P.G.; and Andrew Zdon, P.G. Board Liaisons: Jim Foley, P.E., G.E., S.E.; and William "Jerry" Silva. Staff Liaison: Larry Kereszt

- I. Roll Call
- II. Public Comment
- III. Discussion of Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act (EFZA) – State Mining and Geology Board Presentation
- IV. Discussion of Expert Consultant Recruitment to Assist in Examination Development
 - A. Recruitment Issues
 - B. Alternatives If Expert Consultants Cannot be Recruited
- V. Discussion regarding Performing a Comprehensive Review of Division 29 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (Sections 3000 – 3067) to Ensure that the Regulations are Contemporary, Relevant, and Responsive (Possible Recommendation)
- VI. Discussion of Definitions of Geology and Geophysics – Business and Professions Code Sections 7802 and 7802.1 (Possible Recommendation)
- VII. Discussion for Strategic Planning Meeting (Possible Recommendation)
- VIII. Other Business Not Requiring Committee Action
 - A. Discussion of Examination Conversion to Computer-Based Testing (CBT)
 - B. California Senate Resolution: Earth Science Week – October 10-16, 2010
 - C. BPELSG Name Change
- IX. Discussion of Possible Topics for Future G&G TAC Meetings (Possible Recommendation)
- X. Approval of the Minutes of the July 27, 2010 G&G TAC Meeting (Possible Action)
- XI. Adjourn



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BULLETIN

BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

PROTECTING CONSUMERS SINCE 1929

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



It has been an exciting and eventful quarter for the Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BPELS). Although self funded and operating within our budget, BPELS' staff has been required to participate in furlough Fridays, making the task of accomplishing a burgeoning workload all the more challenging, yet through commitment to excellence and consumer protection, essential duties as well as key issues continue to be addressed. Highlights include the following:

- On October 1, 2010, the Sunset Report was delivered to the Legislature. The Sunset Report provides the legislature, the administration, and the public with a synopsis of the Board's history, as well as its current functions. It also provides recommendations for continuing improvements to ensure that the Board has all of the necessary tools it needs to promote licensure and protect the public.
- As of July 2010, National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) identification numbers are required for national exam eligibility. To obtain an ID number, exam applicants must register at <http://www.ncees.org/Exams.php>.
- Staff continues to negotiate with the Department of Consumer Affairs and NCEES on the liability and cost of administering exams so that NCEES can take over administration of the exams in California.

I would like to thank our staff for their continued dedication to our operations. Although these are fiscally trying times, I can assure licensees and the public that we will continue to make the Board as accessible and user friendly as possible.

Sincerely,
Mike Modugno, PE , President

A NEW NAME FOR THE BOARD

Assembly Bill 1431 was signed by the Governor on September 30, 2010 and put into statute (Chapter 696, Statutes of 2010), calling for the renaming of the Board now that it is administering the Geologists and Geophysicists Act. As of January 1, 2011, the newly named Board for Professional

Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists will have 15 members, including including a licensed geologist or geophysicist and one additional public member. We welcome the opportunity to include this respected profession on the Board and look forward to working closely with them to ensure continued consumer protection.

NCEES AWARDS CALIFORNIA COLLEGES

BPELS was proud to present two of the seven 2010 National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying awards to California educational institutions. The awards were granted to those schools that are successfully "Connecting Professional Practice and Education," by linking engineering programs with industry businesses. The jury of NCEES members and representatives from academic institutions and professional engineering organizations made the award selection, granting \$7,500 each to the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo Civil and Environmental



Gregg Fiegel, Cal Poly (left), Patrick J. Tami, BPELS (right)

Engineering Department and the California State University, Los Angeles Department of Civil Engineering.

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Meet the President and Vice President

Mike S. Modugno, P.E., 2010 President



President Modugno has been a licensed Electrical Engineer since 1977 and the Electrical Engineer member of the Board since 2006. Currently he owns Mike S. Modugno Consulting, Inc. in Carpinteria. He was President of Dalan Engineering, Inc. for over 20 years, and prior to that he was

with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

President Modugno is an alumnus of California State University, Northridge. He is also a member of over a dozen organizations, including the American Council of Engineering Companies of California, Consulting Engineer and Land Surveyors of California, and the American Consulting Engineers Council.

William “Jerry” Silva, 2010 Vice President



Vice President Silva is currently the Transmission Licensing Manager at Southern California Edison. Prior to his current employment, he was a Public Affairs Officer, responding to emergency situations and resolving sensitive political issues with local, state, and federal agencies as well as the public.

Silva received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and his Bachelor of Science in Management and Organizational Behavior from La Verne University. He has extensive experience with economic and legislative projects on both a regional and State level and has been a member of many non-profit organizations, including High Desert United Way, West Covina Chamber of Commerce, and Citrus College Foundation.

The Responsibilities of Serving as a Reference

During your career, you may be asked to be a reference for an applicant pursuing his or her professional license. Consider the following issues before you put your name, reputation, and license on the line.

Serving as a reference for a professional engineer, land surveyor, geologist, or geophysicist applicant means being responsible to the Board; the engineering, land surveying, geology, and geophysics professions; consumers; and the applicant. A reference's appraisal of an applicant and endorsement for professional licensure is looked at closely and is a critical component in the Board's decision-making process.

It is important to note that references are technical (not character) appraisals, so review of the applicant's plans, calculations, maps, and/or reports is necessary for a

truly valid assessment. Therefore, the person providing the reference must possess the technical knowledge and abilities necessary to assess those duties that the applicant is claiming to have performed while employed. Appraisals are confidential and should not be shared with the applicant.

Civil engineer applicants can only use licensed civil engineers as references, electrical engineer applicants must use licensed electrical engineers, and mechanical engineer applicants must use licensed mechanical engineers. It may be acceptable for civil engineers to serve as references for mechanical and electrical engineer applicants if the civil engineer possesses the technical competency to appraise the work of the electrical and/or mechanical engineer applicant. For the other professional engineer

disciplines (not including geotechnical or structural engineering), the reference need not be a professional engineer; however, the reference still must be technically competent to appraise the applicant's abilities. Land surveyor applicants can only use licensed land surveyors or civil engineers legally authorized to practice land surveying as references, and geology and geophysics applicants can only use licensed geologists and geophysicists, respectively.

For questions regarding the completion of the Engagement Record and Reference form or the Independent Evaluation of Scope, Character, and Duration of Applicant's Qualifying Geologic Work Experience form, contact the appropriate Board staff as listed at http://www.pels.ca.gov/about_us/contact.shtml.

A National Exam for Structural Engineers - What It Means for California's Engineers

By Carl H. Josephson, CE, SE, F.SEAOC
BPELS SE Technical Advisory Committee Member

In April 2011, all states that offer a structural engineering exam will begin using the same national test.

The entire nation will be using the new National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) 16-hour structural examination that will test structural engineering candidates on both high wind and high seismic design and, because some states require that Structural Engineers (SE) design bridges, the exam will include some bridge problems as well.

One of the goals of transitioning to a national exam is to make it easier for engineers to be licensed in other states so that they can practice across state borders. While this standardized test will move the profession in that direction, it is only the first step. For example, it will not stipulate that SEs

are the only engineers allowed to design structures and infrastructures in any locale. That decision, as well as any additional qualifications required of practicing engineers, will continue to be made by each state. As an example, some states plan to use this exam as a first "professional engineering" exam while other states, particularly western states, will use this exam to test structural engineering candidates who have first obtained their civil engineering license.

One thing is for sure, more and more states are requiring that "significant structures" be designed by licensed SEs. Hawaii and Illinois already require that licensed SEs design all structures. The states of Washington, Oregon, Utah, and Nevada require an engineer hold an SE license in order to design "significant structures" —a term that varies slightly from

state to state, but generally involves buildings above a certain number of stories, size, occupancy, or importance.

Several other states are currently considering enacting similar laws, and with good reason. Buildings are increasingly more complex, the methods of analysis are more involved, and the amount of education required to complete a basic education in structural engineering now usually involves some level of post-graduate work. Building codes have also become increasingly complex, particularly in states like California. What started out as a half-inch-thick building code in 1927 is today a collection of standards and references that takes up two and a half feet of shelf space.

A quick look at the evolution of structural engineering in California explains why the reference books take up so much space. Following the 1925 earthquake near Santa Barbara, voluntary seismic design provisions were written into the first edition of the Uniform Building Code in 1927. The next year, the California State Chamber of Commerce began drafting the California Building Code, but when the St. Francis Dam collapsed in 1928, the California Legislature determined that the unregulated design of construction projects created a public hazard. Consequently, the Board of Registration for Civil Engineers (CE) was created in 1929. In 1932, the California Legislature established the title of SE to recognize civil engineers who specialized in structural design. The following year the Long Beach earthquake resulted in the "Field Act," requiring that public schools be designed by licensed SEs, and the 1971 San Fernando earthquake resulted in legislation requiring California's hospitals be designed by licensed SEs.

1925 Santa Barbara Earthquake



Courtesy of the National Information Service for Earthquake Engineering, EERC, University of California, Berkeley

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LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIPS

Effective September 30, 2010, Senate Bill 1008 (Chapter 634, Statutes of 2009) amended the Corporations Code and Business and Professions Code sections 6738 and 8729 to include engineers and land surveyors among the professionals who may form Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) as long as certain conditions are met.

The laws still do not allow professional engineers and professional land surveyors to form Limited Liability Companies (LLCs), which are different types of businesses than LLPs. Additionally, the geology and geophysics professions were not included in this bill; therefore, they may not form LLPs or LLCs at this time.

As the Board cannot provide advice on this issue, professional engineers and professional land surveyors interested in learning more should seek private legal and financial counsel before deciding whether or not to form an LLP.

NATIONAL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

The result is that SEs in California should find it easier to get licensed in other states once the national exam is in place. Engineers from states outside of California who wish to obtain a California SE license will still need to be licensed as a CE first. In most cases this will mean that the engineer will need to take the national civil engineering exam and California Special Civil Seismic Principles and Engineering Surveying exams, even if he or she has already passed the 16-hour national SE exam.

With the upcoming changes in the SE testing landscape and more and more states requiring an SE license for major design work, California's licensed CEs may find it advantageous to obtain their SE license, particularly if they want to practice out of state.

For more information about the upcoming national exam, contact Susan Christ, CE, at (916) 263-2247 or Susan.Christ@dca.ca.gov.

2010-2011 BOARD MEETINGS

February 9-10, 2011

Southern California
San Diego

March 24, 2011

Northern California
Sacramento

May 12-13, 2011

Northern California
Sacramento

July 14 or 21, 2011

Location to be determined

September 15 or 22, 2011

Location to be determined

November 9-10, 2011

Location to be determined



This schedule is tentative and may change, please check the website.

Computer-Based Testing is on the Way!

The Board is in the process of converting its State licensing exams to computer-based testing (CBT). Under the current system, exams are administered twice a year in northern and southern California. The implementation of computer-based testing will more clearly distinguish expectations set forth for exams from the licensing process and ultimately allow for a greater number of test locations and dates. With a more effective and secure way to administer exams, the Board will be able to concentrate more on testing content rather than administration and logistics of assessment implementation.

The geologist exam series will be the first to use the new system,

acting as a pilot for the testing process. Currently the exams are being converted to more computer-oriented formats, and additional test questions are being developed. "Having multiple test versions will allow for more than one variation of a given test to be administered at the same time, helping to secure the integrity of the testing process. We are very excited about the implementation of CBT and are committed to taking the necessary steps to insure its success," said the Board's Examinations Unit Manager Ric Moore.

Updates regarding CBT will be posted to the Board's website at <http://www.pels.ca.gov/>. For questions, contact Ric Moore at Ric.Moore@dca.ca.gov.

UPDATE REGARDING CERTIFICATION BY THE CHICAGO SECB

The following update applies to California Civil Engineers who are not yet licensed as Structural Engineers (SE) in California, but have been certified by the Structural Engineering Certification Board (SECB) in Chicago, Illinois.

The Board has communicated with the SECB regarding possible confusion over the wording of the certification provided by their organization as the designation implies structural engineering certification. As a result of the discussions, the Board has agreed to the use of "SECB*," provided the asterisk is in place with the statement that the engineer is not licensed as a structural engineer in California. However, without the use of the asterisk and clarifying information, the Board will need to reconsider the use of the "SECB" designation. SECB certification DOES NOT take the place of being licensed as a structural engineer (B&P Code sections 6736 and 6787) in California, and its use to denote a civil engineer's licensing status or primary license specialization is a violation of State law which could result in disciplinary action.

For questions about becoming a licensed SE in California, go to the BPELS website at

<http://www.pels.ca.gov/applicants/apps.shtml>

REGULATION UPDATES

The Board is currently pursuing regulatory action to amend Board rules 404, 424, 425, 438, and 460 which outline curricula approved for engineering and land surveying qualifying experience as well as provide for a waiver of the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) examination. The amendments will more clearly define approved curricula as well as how education credits earned can be used toward experience, and will also allow those applicants with a PhD in qualifying curricula to apply for an FE exam waiver. For more information on the amendments, see the November Board meeting agenda at http://www.pels.ca.gov/about_us/schedule.shtml.

Effective September 24, 2010, Board Rules 427.10 and 427.30 were amended in an effort to clarify the Engagement Record and Reference forms used by professional engineering, land surveying, and structural engineering applicants. Amendments were also made to Board Rule 427.10, adding a

new optional Log Book for Land Surveyor Applicants, which allows for supplemental information to be provided to the Board as part of the application for licensure process. These forms can be found on the Board's website at <http://www.pels.ca.gov/applicants/apps.shtml>.

In the coming year, the Board will also be pursuing regulatory action to amend Board Rule 407, restructuring the examination and application fees to be consistent with operational changes relating to new application review and examination administration processes. Throughout the year, the Board will also be reviewing regulations relating to the practices of engineering and land surveying (Title 16, Division 5, California Code of Regulations) and geology and geophysics (Title 16, Division 29, California Code of Regulations) to determine if other sections need to be amended. Any proposed changes will be posted to the Board website at <http://www.pels.ca.gov>.

What is an Occupational Analysis?

An occupational analysis (OA) is the legal method that is followed to ensure that occupational testing is legally valid and defensible. OA refers to a process designed to obtain descriptive information regarding the tasks required to effectively perform a job and the important knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to competently complete those activities. Well-designed analyses should reflect the diversity within a profession such as geographic region, practice setting, professional experience, and education. Analysis relevancy is best assured through broad-based, thorough surveying of a wide range of the licensing population. Those tasks, skills, and abilities valued by the majority of experts surveyed can be considered reliable content for competent entry-level practice. The verified competencies can then be used in the development of test specifications for licensure examinations.

California Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors Examinations and Occupational Analysis Status

Examination	Last OA Conducted	Future OA Date
Special Civil	2005	2011
Traffic	2010	2015
Geotechnical	2010	2015
Structural	2003	Being converted to NCEES
Land Surveyor	2002	2011
Geologist	2000	2011
Hydrologist	1999	2011
Engineering Geologist	2000	2011
Geophysicist	2005	2011

Geologist and Geophysicist Expert Consultants- Enforcement Vacancies

The Board is recruiting Professional Geologists, Professional Geophysicists, Certified Engineering Geologists, and Certified Hydrogeologists with specific areas of expertise to serve as expert consultants for enforcement (formerly technical experts).

Duties

Experts review enforcement complaint investigation cases for compliance with the Geologist and Geophysicist Act. Upon completion of a review, a written report of the findings must be submitted to the Board. Experts may also be asked to testify at an administrative hearing.

Qualifications

Expertise in the area of the complaint is essential. Applicants must be free of disciplinary actions, licensed in California, a California resident, and have been licensed for at least five years.

Reimbursement

Experts are paid an hourly rate for case review, report preparation, and actual time spent testifying at administrative hearings. Travel costs associated with testifying are reimbursed.

How to Apply

Interested parties should print out and complete the Areas of Expertise form for Geologists and Geophysicists found at http://www.geology.ca.gov/forms-pubs/te_app.pdf. Submit the form and current resume to:

Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors
Geologist & Geophysicist Program
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95833

For more information, contact the Geology Program at (916) 572-4361 or geology@dca.ca.gov.

Geologist and Geophysicist TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

The Geologist and Geophysicist Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was established by the Board in May 2010 to provide expertise on issues and trends impacting the geoscience community. The work plan for 2010/11 includes clarifying the definitions of “geology” and “geophysics” and assisting the Board in reviewing proposed legislation affecting the practices of geology and geophysics. The five Board-appointed TAC members include Thomas Barry, Professional Geologist (P.G.), Engineering Geologist (E.G.), Hydrogeologist (H.G.) (Chairman); Hugh Robertson, P.G., E.G. (Vice Chairman); Francisco Cabije, P.G.; Eldon Gath, P.G., E.G.; and Andy Zdon, P.G., E.G., H.G. TAC members typically serve two-year terms and can be reappointed for two additional two-year terms.

EXPERT CONSULTANTS - EXAMS

The Board’s Examination Development Unit is recruiting licensed geologists and geophysicists who reside and practice in California to assist with various aspects of examination development. These tasks include item writing and review, field testing, grading, and standard setting. Newly licensed (within the past three years) professionals are especially needed. Licensed experts (formerly subject matter experts) are needed in the following disciplines to assist with the appropriate California state-specific examinations:

- Professional Geologists to assist with the California Supplemental Component (CSC)
- Professional Geophysicists to assist with the California Professional Geophysicists (PGp) examination
- Certified Engineering Geologists to assist with the California Certified Engineering Geologist (CEG) examination
- Certified Hydrogeologists to assist with the California Certified Hydrogeologist (CHG) examination.

Experts have the opportunity to meet and work with other licensed professionals from around the state and are paid an honorarium for time spent at meetings and meeting preparation. Travel costs associated with attending meetings are reimbursed at the current state contracted rates.

If you would like more information about being an Expert Consultant for exams, please visit the website at <http://www.geology.ca.gov/licensees/smeswanted.shtml> or contact the Examination Development Unit at (916) 572-GEO1 [4361].



Engineer and Land Surveyor Expert Consultants - Enforcement Vacancies

The Board Enforcement Unit is recruiting professional engineers and land surveyors with specific areas of expertise to serve as experts (formerly technical experts) in the following areas:

Civil Engineering - subdivision planning and development, grading and drainage of residential and small business projects, home inspections for resale and for national disaster evaluation, water intrusion issues, and septic system design; *Civil and/or Structural Engineering* - structural design for residential houses and commercial projects; *Civil and/or Geotechnical Engineering* - geotechnical evaluations for new construction and mitigating soil and compaction failure; and *Land Surveying* - boundary surveying, property line disputes, subdivision map processing, and title descriptions.

Duties

Experts review enforcement complaint investigation cases for compliance with BPELS standards and regulations. Upon completion of a review, a written report of the findings must be submitted to the Board. Experts may also be asked to testify.

Qualifications

Expertise in the area of the complaint is essential. Most cases involve residential and small business projects. Applicants must be free of Board disciplinary actions, licensed in California, a California resident, and have been licensed for at least five years.

Reimbursement

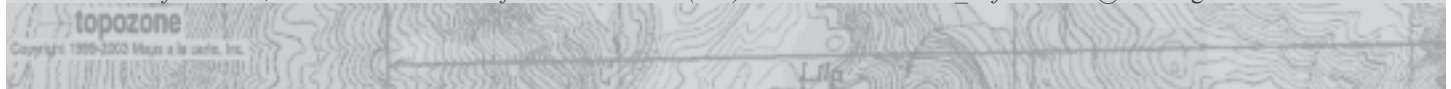
Experts are paid an hourly rate for case review, report preparation, and actual time spent testifying at administrative hearings. Travel costs associated with testifying are reimbursed.

How to Apply

Interested parties should print out and complete the Areas of Expertise form for Civil (including Structural and Geotechnical) Engineers and Land Surveyors at http://www.pels.ca.gov/pubs/forms/experts_aoe_ce_ls.pdf or the Areas of Expertise form for Electrical and Mechanical Engineers at http://www.pels.ca.gov/pubs/forms/experts_aoe_me_ee.pdf. Submit the form and current resume/curriculum vitae to:

Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors
Attention: Enforcement Unit
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95833

For more information, contact the BPELS Enforcement Unit at (866) 780-5370 or BPELS_Enforcement@dca.ca.gov.



2010 In Memorium

Achterberg, Rolland Berdet
Anderson, Gene Lavare
Bank, Milton Harold
Bunnell, Richard Billings
Cohen, Norman A.
Crawford, Gary Lee
Dunn, Philip Robert
Ellis, James Burlew
Freeman, Stephen III

Guzman, Carlos Frederico
Hobbs, Donald Leroy
Hobbs, Robert Elmer
Hughes, Albert Clinton
Kolehouse, Margaret Eileen
Maloney, James Michael
Maneatis, John A.
Maxwell, Rodney Francis
Mayer, Edward H.

Mc Donald, Gerald Charles
Muff, Harry J.
Okey, Robert White
Pahkamaa, Frank L.
Pucci, Anthony Louis
Saad, Mark George
Simpson, Hugh B
Tanaka, George J
Urban, Robert Gene

Weber, Everett Clarence
Whitston, Ned W.
Whitten, Travice Winfield Jr.
Wokas, Albert Louis
Wren, Harper Christopher
Zijderveld, Hendrik Raoul



BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
AND LAND SURVEYORS
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 300
Sacramento, California, 95833-2944

BPELS Updates

- Reports of Enforcement Actions will now be reported on the website only. Due to budgetary constraints, the Board is unable to print its newsletter at this time. The Board will reassess printing newsletters including enforcement action in the future when the budget permits.
- A BPELS email subscription service is now available.

Applicants and licensees are encouraged to join the listserv to automatically receive updates and information from the Board via email. Subscription information is confidential and will not be shared. To register, go to <https://www.dca.ca.gov/webapps/pels/subscribe.php>.

CONTACT THE BOARD

2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 300
Sacramento, California, 95833-2944

Contact information for inquiries regarding Professional Engineering, Professional Land Surveying, and the Geologists and Geophysicists Program can be found at:

http://www.pels.ca.gov/about_us/contact.shtml

Toll Free: (866) 780-5370 | Phone: (916) 263-2222 |

Fax: (916) 263-2246

General Emails for the Board Office:

BPELS_Office@dca.ca.gov

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Katie Palmieri, Editor

The **California Geological Survey** has established a new program and website, the Earthquake Clearing House. From the CGS website, "***The California Earthquake Clearinghouse is a place to coordinate earthquake field investigations and share observations and knowledge among emergency responders and the engineering and scientific communities.***"

AEG members are strongly encouraged to sign up and participate on the various sub-committees. The next meeting will be in April in Southern CA; the details will be announced shortly on the web site. Please see the Earthquake Clearinghouse flyer on the following two pages for an introduction to the new program.

In the meantime, members can contact Anne Rosinski of the CGS' Seismic Hazard Assessment Program for additional information. Anne's contact information is below.



Anne Rosinski PG 7481, CEG 2353

Senior Engineering Geologist

Seismic Hazard Assessment Program

California Geological Survey

345 Middlefield Road, MS 520

Menlo Park, CA 94025

650.688.6373 Fax: 650.688.6329

Anne.Rosinski@conservation.ca.gov

<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs>



California Earthquake Clearinghouse

The California Post-Earthquake Clearinghouse

A place to coordinate earthquake field investigations and share observations and knowledge among emergency responders and the engineering and scientific communities



2010 El Mayor-Cuicapah earthquake. Photo: R. Lloyd



2010 El Mayor-Cuicapah earthquake. Photo: R. Anderson

Clearinghouse Meetings and Plan

The Clearinghouse holds regular meetings and exercises to maintain strong working relationships among participating agencies and institutions and to continually improve its operational preparedness. Clearinghouse activities are guided by an Operation Plan developed and maintained by the Management group. This document outlines Clearinghouse functions, agency involvement, management, resource needs, and operating procedures. The plan can be found on the Clearinghouse website: <http://www.eqclearinghouse.org/CA/>

What is the California Post-Earthquake Clearinghouse?

The Clearinghouse is a resource shared by government agencies, non-profit organizations and academia after damaging earthquakes, where engineers, geologists, seismologists, sociologists, economists, and other researchers who collect information about the affected area can participate in a temporary organization to facilitate the gathering and sharing of information, maximize its availability, and better use the talents of those present.

The Clearinghouse may be located in a physical structure, generally with easy access to both the damaged area and the emergency operations field location, and it is expected to also be “virtual” where an on-line location will be maintained for information and data sharing.

The Clearinghouse’s principal function is to provide State and Federal disaster response managers, and the scientific and engineering communities with prompt information on ground failure, structural damage, and other consequences from significant seismic events such as earthquakes and tsunamis.

The Clearinghouse: 1) coordinates field investigations of earth scientists, engineers, and other participating researchers; 2) facilitates sharing of observations through regular meetings and through the Clearinghouse website; and 3) notifies disaster responders of crucial observations or results.

Who Participates in Clearinghouse Activities?

The Clearinghouse membership is comprised of earth scientists, engineers, emergency managers, and other professionals representing various state agencies, federal bureaus, universities, private institutions and professional organizations. The Clearinghouse is managed by representatives from 5 agencies: the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA), California Geological Survey (CGS), California Seismic Safety Commission (CSSC), Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). This management group confers after damaging earthquakes to decide whether or not to activate the Clearinghouse.

Why is There a Need for a Post-Earthquake Clearinghouse?

Large damaging earthquakes in California attract scores of researchers from around the U.S. and internationally who arrive in the affected area to investigate ground failure, structural damage, social or financial impacts of devastation, or simply to lend a hand. Clearly, field observations made by these individuals, and information compiled by the companies, agencies and institutions they represent, could add substantially to the critical information base needed immediately by emergency response managers and, eventually, by all interested in seismic-related phenomena and seismic safety.

However, in the absence of an established, organized body to facilitate the reconnaissance activities and integrate the observations of the individuals, much of the information gathered during the immediate aftermath of a strong seismic event will not be compiled and shared, thereby minimizing the opportunity to enhance our collective understanding of seismic processes and impacts. Nor would the information be made available to the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA), who coordinates emergency response, damage assessment, and early recovery operations following disastrous earthquakes in the state.

In addition, the Clearinghouse provides the following:

- A way to track fieldwork progress of investigators in order to minimize duplication of efforts and maximize examination of the affected area
- Geographic Information System(GIS) technology, data, imagery, photos, and maps to geolocate data and assist field investigators
- Information synthesis and dissemination to assist Federal and State Emergency Operations Centers, State and Federal Geologists, and other appropriate recipients.

Participation is voluntary. The actual make up of any Clearinghouse varies depending on the earthquake event. For instance, a Clearinghouse for earthquakes occurring in sparsely settled areas with few structures would likely be composed of more geologists than engineers. Earthquakes impacting major metropolitan regions would likely involve many disciplines including social scientists.

For more information

**Visit the Clearinghouse website
at www.eqclearinghouse/CA**



2010 Offshore Northern CA (Eureka) earthquake. Photo: Lizundia

Do other States have Clearinghouses?

The Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC, website www.wsspc.org), in its Policy 10-3, notes that Clearinghouse operations have been held in Washington and Nevada and that some of its others member states have been developing Clearinghouse plans. The states in the New Madrid Region of the midwest are also working on a clearinghouse plan across states. An extensive clearinghouse operation was used after Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana.

Both WSSPC and the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (NEHRP) recommend that states with earthquake hazards establish a plan for a post-earthquake technical clearinghouse to be activated if possible within 24 hours after each major earthquake within its jurisdiction. WSSPC also recommends multijurisdictional agreements that support the establishment of a single comprehensive technical clearinghouse in the event of a large earthquake.

In 2002, the USGS released Circular 1242, The Plan to Coordinate NEHRP (National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program) Post-Earthquake Investigations, as “a framework for both coordinating what is going to be done and identifying responsibilities for post-earthquake investigations” and suggests establishment of a Technical Clearinghouse within 24 hours following a significant earthquake.

Circular 1242 can be found here: <http://geopubs.wr.usgs.gov/circular/c1242/>.

Chapter Meetings

Inland Empire:

For the latest information and updates, please visit <http://www.aegsc.org/chapters/inlandempire/>

Central Coast:

For the latest information and updates, please visit <http://www.aegsc.org/chapters/centralcoast/>

San Diego:

For the latest information and updates, please 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.

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AEG offers two ways to increase your company's visibility for under \$100 per year. Each *Annual Report and Directory* and each issue of *Environmental & Engineering Geoscience* includes the Professional Index. Available only to AEG members, this is a great way to promote your company. For \$80 per year, you can be included in both the Directory and Journal.

Many of our members use this index to find colleagues to assist with projects or to recommend their services to others. Don't miss your chance to be included in the *2011 Annual Report and Directory*. Reservations are due by December 31 to secure your listing.

Pricing is:

\$30 – *Annual Report and Directory*

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You can order online at

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or call Cathy Wilson at 303-757-2926.

* The deadline for submitting an advertisement for next month's newsletter is December 27.

YEAR 2011 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, Dave Perry.

2011 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. You can renew your membership online. Please update your membership if you wish to continue to receive future issues of the newsletter.

*****NOTICE: Proposed New AEG Publication*****

WHO'S WHO in SO CALIFORNIA ENGINEERING GEOLOGY
The Evolution of Engineering Geology in Southern California

Have you ever wondered "Whatever happened to___?" or "I've heard of ___, who is he?"

The undersigned have decided to try to prepare an internet publication with the above title, which will include biographies of engineering geologists in southern California. We would like you to share your biography (autobiography) with other EGs. If you have worked on an interesting project, others would like to know about it.

If we limit each autobiography to 3 pages of text, plus photos, this publication would be more than 1,000 pages long. Therefore, we plan to utilize a proposed new AEG Foundation internet website, where there is no limit to total pages, and we can use color photos. Also, this new website will be available for no-charge access, worldwide, thus spreading the word on the history and evolution of engineering geology, and southern California's immense contribution.

We suggest (not require) three criteria for inclusion: 1. That you are a CA licensed CEG; 2. That you are now or once were a member of AEG; 3. That you have enough years of professional experience to relate one or more significant projects you have worked on. We believe there are more than 250 such EGs in southern California. This will be an evolving internet site where new autobiographies can be added.

We will also include Memorial biographies of past notable geologists in southern California. So far, we have identified 30, including John Buwalda, Ian Campbell, Tom Dibblee, Rollin Eckis, Perry Ehlig, Richard Jahns, John Mann, F.L. Ransome, Charles Richter, Dottie & Marty Stout, Gene Waggoner. Biographies of 14 of these notable geologists were published for the recent AEG Annual Meeting, in "History of the Association's First 50 Years," available from AEG HQ, contact Julie Keaton or Becky Roland.

Here is a CHECKLIST FOR YOUR AUTOBIOGRAPHY:

Complete NAME, address, phone, email; BIRTH DATE and place; UNIVERSITY(s) attended, major(s), degree(s), year(s); MILITARY service; FIRMS/AGENCIES you worked for; up to 3 significant PROJECTS you worked on; possibly relate a serious or humorous INCIDENT; a MENTOR you may wish to acknowledge; professional SOCIETIES, HONORS, AWARDS; HOBBIES; up to 5 PUBLICATIONS; PHOTOS of yourself and of projects (scanned images preferred).

So, if you wish to be included in this new internet publication, prepare your autobiography and email it with photos to: allen@hatheway.net and in the Subject box, type: So. Cal. Geologist. Or mail it to Allen Hatheway, 10256 Stoltz Dr., Rolla, MO 65401. Please, no more than 3 pages of text, single-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt.

Please pass this notice on to those you may know who no longer get this Newsletter.

In the spirit of camaraderie, we thank you,

Richard Proctor
Allen Hatheway
David Rogers
Larry Cann
Bob Lynn

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES & ADVERTISING

The California Geological Survey is hiring engineering geologists.


CGS needs to recruit and hire new engineering geologists to maintain staffing levels as staff retires or moves on. This may not be the obvious time to look for a job with the state, but CGS gets most of its funding through special funds and contracts, not the general fund. When CGS needs to hire, an announcement is posted on the State Personnel Board's "VPOS" web site (<http://jobs.spb.ca.gov/wvpos>). Searching for "Engineering Geologist" there will find the positions that the State is now accepting applications for. Those currently include a position in CGS's Geologic Mapping Program. That position is listed as within the Department of Conservation. See the web page for the full job description and application instructions. Please note that to be hired by the state, a candidate must pass and place in the highest three ranks on a civil service exam. The Engineering Geologist exam, jointly developed by the Department of Conservation and the Department of Water Resources, is an online qualifications appraisal. It is possible to take the exam at the same time you send in an application, but both steps are required. The online application and "supplemental questionnaire" (exam) are at this web page.

<http://jobs.ca.gov/CASPB/sup/BulPreview.asp?R1=095699&R2=00103756&R3=9PB02>

http://jobs.spb.ca.gov/wvpos/more_info.cfm?recno=415797

Chris Wills
Supervising Engineering Geologist
California Geological Survey
801 K St. MS 12-32
Sacramento, CA 95814-3531

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