



THE ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

Connecting Professionals, Practice and the Public

SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
SECTION

NEWSLETTER – February 2011

SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
SECTION

OFFICERS

Chair - Peter Thams, thams.peter@gmail.com, 805-493-0663
Vice Chair – Steve Varnell, svarnell@fugro.com, 805-650-7000
Treasurer – Dave Perry, dlperry@mactec.com, 323-889-5326
Secretary – Gregory Sena, gsena@dpw.lacounty.gov, 626-458-4923

Visit the Southern California Section Website: www.aegsc.org

Newsletter Editor – Shant Minas, shant@aessoil.com, 818-552-6000

******No Meeting this Month. Please stay tuned for our March meeting at Steven's Steakhouse, featuring Bruce Schell.**

****** Greetings, AEG members! There is no meeting this month, but please stay tuned for our March 2011 meeting at Steven's Steakhouse, featuring the eminent Bruce Schell, who has worked tirelessly on the I-710 tunneling project. Please scroll through this month's newsletter below, as we have several new employment ads and a continuing education announcement as well. Cheers! ******

Chair's Column

By Peter Thams

Just a quick note this month. Our February dinner meeting has been canceled due to conflicts with our speakers work schedule. The next meeting will be in March at Steven's Steakhouse where Bruce Schell will be speaking on the findings of some of his recent work.

BPELSG Update: In a surprising move, Governor Schwarzenegger named a geologist to BPELSG as one of his parting appointments. The geologist is Eric Zinn from Santa Cruz and the announcement can be viewed following the link <http://www.gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=16862>. Mr. Zinn isn't well known in Southern California, but a few people in the Bay Area and Sacramento have chimed in with favorable comments about him. He is a member of AEG's San Francisco Section and Jared Pratt has invited him to reconnect with the Section. Jared will be meeting him at the BPELSG meeting on January 28th.

Charles Nestle and I went to Sacramento last week (January 18th) to make rounds at the capitol with AEG's lobbyist Judy Wolen. Our message was simple. Although we prefer to have an independent Board for Geologists, our main concern is the proper administration of the Geologists and Geophysicists Act. We are not opposed to being part of BPELSG, but we want be sure BPELSG has the resources to fulfill its new responsibilities. We pointed out that BPELSG has been denied the funding for a licensee on staff through the budget process, and requested this be addressed by legislature in the Sunset Review Process. We also noted that the denials appear to have been based on budget projections from BPELSG staff that show the Geology Program with a projected deficit in the current fiscal year, and the Geologists and Geophysicist fund being depleted by 2013/14. How can this be when the Board was eliminated and staff reduced from 9 to 2? If this is the case, where is the efficiency and economy of scale expected by consolidation of government? The largest expenditures appear to be on consultants for exam administration and on enforcement, although enforcement has fallen off to practically nil. Senate Business and Professions Committee consultants Bill Gage and G.V. Ayers were interested to hear this and promised to address the issues in their Sunset

February 2011

Review Report, which will be available prior to BPELSG's sunset review hearing on March 21st. Charles Nestle and I will be reviewing and commenting on the report and are expecting to testify at the hearing. We will also be meeting with Senator Curren Price, chairman of the committee, at his district office in the near future. The capitol meetings went well and our message appeared to have been well received and with relief that we weren't asking for immediate reinstatement of BGG. We need to keep that goal in sight, but at the moment it is more important to stabilize the program.

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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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/>.

**Positions Available for Entry Level and Project Level Geologists**

SubSurface Designs, Inc., an established Los Angeles geotechnical engineering firm, is seeking Entry Level and Project Level Geologists. Part-time and full-time positions available. 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.  
Attn: Mark Triebold  
12848 Foothill Blvd.  
Sylmar, CA 91342

818-898-1595 (office)  
818-898-4003 (facsimile)  
mark@subsurfacedesigns.com

**GEOCON – Burbank, CA**  
Environmental Geologist/Engineer



**Geocon**, a full service environmental and geotechnical consulting firm has an excellent opportunity for highly motivated individual seeking a mid-level position to assist with environmental consulting projects for a wide variety of public and private sector clients. The ideal candidate will be exposed to multiple project phases ranging from investigation to remediation, with an overall career path towards project management. The desired candidate will have the ability to perform independent hands-on fieldwork, and oversee contractors and other field personnel. Flexibility to work on a multitude of diverse projects, a positive attitude, willingness to learn, and commitment to workplace health and safety are imperative.

**Job Description:**

- Perform Phase I and II environmental site assessments.
- Site investigation, field geologic mapping, coordination and oversight of subsurface exploratory borings and trenches.
- Perform soil sampling and assist in the development of laboratory testing programs
- Complete test trench and boring logs, prepare geologic cross sections, maps, and other illustrations
- Groundwater sampling and analysis
- Preparation of geologic and geotechnical reports relating to development of residential, commercial, and municipal projects.

**Experience/Requirements:**

- Bachelor's Degree in Geology or Engineering
- Graduate level education preferred but not required
- 2-5 years experience with Phase I and field investigations (geologic mapping, exploratory borings/trenches) ---Experience in southern California preferred
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Proficient computer skills including word processing and excel.
- OSHA 40-hour HAZWOPER training required
- CPN Nuclear Gage training a plus.
- Valid California drivers' license, current DMV printout, and vehicle for use to travel to various sites.
- Able to lift up to 50 lbs. on a routine basis

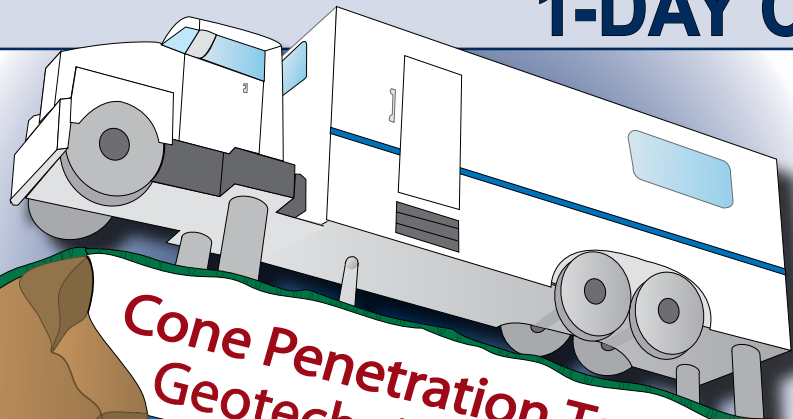
Geocon offers a comprehensive benefit package, including Medical, Dental, Vision, EAP, FSA and employer-paid Basic Life/AD&D and LTD, as well as 401(k) and Profit Sharing. We also offer Voluntary Life and a generous holiday/sick and vacation policy.

**Please respond ASAP if you would like consideration.** This is an immediate opening in the Burbank region of southern California. For immediate consideration please send resume and salary history to Mike Conkle by email to [conkle@geoconinc.com](mailto:conkle@geoconinc.com), or by fax to (818) 841-1704, or by mail to Geocon, 3303 N. San Fernando Boulevard, Suite 100, Burbank, CA 91504.

Geocon is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer, M/F/D/V.  
Benefits and salary based on experience



# 1-DAY CPT SHORT COURSE



**Cone Penetration Testing for  
Geotechnical Professionals**

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:

Friday - APRIL 8, 2011  
Huntington Beach

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA:

Wednesday - APRIL 13, 2011  
Berkeley

## COURSE INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Peter Robertson

Register Early & Save

Earn Professional Development Hours (PDH's)

**• ON-LINE REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE •**

Go to [www.greggdrilling.com/seminars.htm](http://www.greggdrilling.com/seminars.htm) to enroll on-line today.

**Course Tuition:** \$195.00 early registration - \$270.00 late registration

Presented by:  
**GREGG**  
Phone: (562) 427-6899

## 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.

### Company & Employment Advertising Newsletter (includes SoCal website posting)

|                 | <u>Month</u> | <u>Year</u> |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
| ▪ Business Card | \$10         | \$100       |
| ▪ ¼ Page        | \$20         | \$200       |
| ▪ ⅓ Page        | \$30         | \$300       |
| ▪ ½ Page        | \$35         | \$350       |
| ▪ Full Page     | \$50         | \$500       |

#### SoCal website posting only

\$20/month

February 2011

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 February 2011 to secure your listing.

Pricing is:

\$30 – *Annual Report and Directory*

\$60 – *Environmental & Engineering Geoscience*

\$80 – Both publications

You can order online at

<https://aegweb.org/i4a/forms/form.cfm?id=23&pageid=4837&showTitle=1>

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](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

### **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](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

It's a scale...  
It's a protractor...  
It's the fastest apparent dip calculator!

The logo for ZIP A DIP features the word "ZIP" in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by a stylized letter "A" inside a triangle, and the word "DIP" in the same bold, sans-serif font. The entire logo is flanked by horizontal lines on both sides. Below the logo, the text "an Underground Insight product" is written in a smaller font.

Now available online at [ZipADip.com](http://ZipADip.com)

If you would like to post an ad in the newsletter, please contact Shant Minas at [shant@aessoil.com](mailto:shant@aessoil.com). Advertisement rates are shown in the box below.

|                                          | <u>Month</u> | <u>Year</u> |
|------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| ▪ Business Card                          | \$10         | \$100       |
| ▪ ¼ Page                                 | \$20         | \$200       |
| ▪ ⅓ Page                                 | \$30         | \$300       |
| ▪ ½ Page                                 | \$35         | \$350       |
| ▪ Full Page                              | \$50         | \$500       |
| <b><u>SoCal website posting only</u></b> |              |             |
| <b>\$20/month</b>                        |              |             |

Shant Minas  
Applied Earth Sciences  
4742 San Fernando Road  
Glendale, CA 91204  
818-552-6000 x109  
shant@aessoil.com