



ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS
Southern California Chapter
"Connecting Professionals, Practice, and the Public."

NEWSLETTER – 2nd Quarter 2023

***NEW!* Officers**

Chair – Daniel Schneiderei, City of Los Angeles
Vice Chair – Jason Moore, Fugro
Treasurer – Robert Woodford, Woodford GEO
Secretary – Solishia Andico, City of Malibu

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

****** Greetings, AEG members! It has been a while since we published a newsletter. Hopefully this will become a regular publication to keep the majority of the membership, who are not able to attend meetings regularly, informed and engaged in the chapter activities. The most important element of this newsletter is the announcement of a new slate of chapter officers, hooray! ******

Our meeting this month is on Tuesday, June 13, at Victorio's in North Hollywood. We will be welcoming Shant Minas, who will be presenting a case history of a complex project with both geotechnical and environmental challenges. He calls it "Everything but the Kitchen Sink": A Multidimensional Geotechnical, Geologic and Environmental Investigation for a Proposed Manufacturing and Office Facility on a Complicated Brownfield Site, Los Angeles, California.

Regional Director's Column

By Darrin Hasham (DHASHAM@EARTHSYSTEMS.COM)

June 10, 2023

Greetings, this month we celebrate! It is a new beginning, we have a new slate of officers that have volunteered their time and energy to bring the southern California Chapter of AEG back to life. I applaud their enthusiasm and ask you to join me.

When you, the membership, elected me as your regional director in 2019 I had no idea that in just a few short months the world would be plunged into uncertainty as a result of a virus, a microscopic "thing" that doesn't even rank as an organism. Our collective group was not immune from the virus and suffered its effects without contracting the illness. Group gatherings of all sorts were restricted, cancelled, and even outlawed; but we have survived, and I am confident that we will reinvent ourselves and be stronger, more relevant, and better equipped to fulfill our roles in supporting our members; connecting professionals, practice, and the public; and bridging academia to practice and developing the geoscience workforce of the future!

When I was elected for my first term the learning curve was pretty flat, the gatherings stopped and the general mindset was pessimistic. Hunker-down and hope for herd immunity was the message coming from our leaders, so that is pretty much what everyone did. It changed the way we live, work and play. Remote work and virtual meetings became commonplace; we even held a few of our own virtual and hybrid meetings. These tools are here to stay and will continue to change the way we interact, as an organization, and as a people. As a result of Covid, our meetings stopped, our ability to share and learn from each other was diminished, the chapter lost a sense of purpose and direction.

When I was elected to the second term I made a promise to myself that I would do what I could to revitalize the Chapter. I had a role to play. So, this term started with a pretty steep learning curve. Just like all of the people that participate in this organization, I am a volunteer, I have no training to face a new challenge that I wouldn't have asked for. I have always said "this is our organization, it is what WE make of it." As the saying goes, it was time to fish or

cut bait. I decided to stand up straight and cast the net, and fortunately we were successful. We have a group of individuals that have stepped up to continue the legacy of the Southern California Chapter of the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists, and what a legacy it is. Engineering geology, as a discipline, began in southern California, and our chapter, or section as it was referred to in the old days, has had more than a sprinkling of engineering geology heavyweights. Our web page, AEGSC.ORG, presents a historical list of officers from 1957, and some of the names are known far beyond the realm of southern California. Names such as Eldon Gath, Bob Hollingsworth, Richard Proctor, Garry Rasmussen, Hugh Robertson, Buzz Spellman, Bob Sydnor, and Jerry Treiman to name a few. These are people that helped to shape our industry as well as serving us locally. The first woman, Denise Pieratti, was elected to a leadership role in 1980. We have so much to be proud of. We need to keep the chapter going to honor those that brought us this far, and to give those that will come after us the same sense of pride and heritage.

The results of the election were truly inspiring. Thirty-nine ballots were returned which represents about 20 percent of the chapter membership. All ballots returned voted straight down the ballot for the members that volunteered. There were no write-in candidates. I hope others will be inspired by the enthusiasm of the new team and seek opportunities to be involved. Examples include newsletter editor, membership chair, student liaison, etc. etc., after all, "this is our organization, it is what WE make of it." Please join me in thanking the volunteers that have stepped up to lead us into the future.

Daniel Schneidereit – Chapter Chairperson

Daniel Schneidereit has been working as an engineering geologist since 1987 and has been involved in a variety of geologic issues including fault and landslide investigations and investigations for small and large projects; from EIR stage to as-built report. He has been a member of AEG since 1987. Most of his work has been for private geotechnical firms in the southern California area. Since 2013 he has been a reviewing geologist for the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety. Through reviewing work, Mr. Schneidereit is increasingly concerned about the standard of practice in the engineering geology field. He has sought to raise these standards in the city, particularly with fault investigations and rock slope stability

evaluations. He sees AEG as a very important resource for the practicing geologist and wishes to increase the post-covid involvement in the Southern California Section of AEG.

Jason Moore – Chapter Vice-Chairperson



Jason is a Professional Geologist and Certified Engineering Geologist in the State of California and has been a Member of AEG since 1998. For over 25 years he has practiced environmental and engineering geology. His work has mostly revolved around infrastructure projects such as highways, bridges and transmission lines in California, with some work outside of the state in Arizona, Hawaii, Oregon, Nevada and Texas as well as Panama and Saudi Arabia. During that time

his understanding of the service AEG and its members provide to our profession has evolved from reading about innovative applications of geology in the Environmental & Engineering Geoscience Journal to recognizing the importance of legislative tracking and lobbying to protect us. Grassroots meetings of our membership, whether in person or online, are fundamental to the effectiveness of AEG across its range of mission. He wants to be a part of keeping the Southern California Chapter healthy and strong.

Robert Woodford – Chapter Treasurer



After graduating from San Francisco State in 2015 with a B.S. in Geology, he attended AEG meetings in the San Francisco Bay Area. He got his first job as a staff geologist through the organization and worked in the bay area. He moved down to SoCal in 2018 and has been a part of the southern California chapter since. A need has arisen for a treasurer for our chapter, and he is compelled to step up and provide skills as a leader to help our organization move forward.

Solishia Andico – Chapter Secretary



Solishia Andico enthusiastically embraced the opportunity to be AEG's secretary. She was the secretary for the Bruin Geologic Society at UCLA and president of AAPG at CSUN. She has worked as a staff geologist at RT Frankian & Associates, senior staff geologist at Cotton, Shires, & Associates, and is the new environmental sustainability analyst for the City of Malibu. As a female minority geologist, she would like to bring new, innovative ideas to AEG and make sure all voices, from

students to senior geologists, are heard. She stands for protecting the environment, providing tools and resources for the new generations of geologists, and enforcing safety in the work environment.

Recap of May Southern California Chapter of AEG Meeting

Our first meeting back in 2023 was a success! On May 17th, thirty-four geologists from all across southern California gathered at Victorio's Ristorante in North Hollywood to network and mingle. The atmosphere was electric! It is clear that the time is right for pushing forward with in-person activities, hopefully we can organize a field trip soon. For this meeting we had the pleasure of hearing Mike Piepenburg (Principal Project Geologist, Mott McDonald) present a reminder of the June 24, 1971 Sylmar Tunnel Fire, one of the worst tunnel disasters in California History. With only a half mile of excavation remaining for completion of the tunnel, pockets of natural gas (methane) were ignited. Fires broke out and natural gas explosions occurred, ultimately trapping 18 miners and taking the lives of seventeen men. These dangerous conditions and overall disaster created California's state occupational safety agency, known as Cal/OSHA, and highlight the need for safety in the workplace.



Presenter Michael Piepenburg and Regional Director Hasham take a moment before dinner to plan the sequence of the evening's proceedings and take a photo.

RD Hasham Addresses a full house at Victorio's Ristorante before the evening's Presentation. Great attendance and an electric atmosphere.



Presenter Michael Piepenburg introduces his informative presentation on the June 24, 1971 Sylmar Tunnel Fire, which is one of the worst tunnel disasters in California History and was an event that facilitated the creation of Cal/OSHA.

To keep the informative and entertaining in-person meetings going we need presenters. If you would like to present at a southern California Chapter AEG Meeting, please reach out to our Vice-Chair Jason Moore at ja.moore@fugro.com. We would love to have you!

Mid-Year Board Meeting, April 29 – May 1, Brunswick, OH

I (Darrin) attended the mid-year board meeting (MYBM) this year. Beginning in 2015 AEG was reorganized and “Sections” became “Chapters” and chapters were included in regions represented by one Regional Director. This was done to reduce the number of officers travelling to the Board of Directors (BOD) meetings, prior to this change all chapter chairs had a seat at the table. This change was intended to increase efficiency of the body and reduce travel expenses. The BOD meets twice a year, at the end of the annual meeting and at a MYBM. As your regional director I am your liaison with the Executive Council (EC), which is responsible for running the organization, with the help of our association management consultant, J & M Business solutions, based in Brunswick Ohio. The EC meets quarterly. The MYBM was held at J & M’s office to minimize the expense. The organization’s leaders are always looking for opportunities to keep costs down and provide more value to the members.

As your director I am responsible for bringing your questions, concerns, or comments to the EC. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you would like to express yourself to the EC. At the BOD meetings we hear the reports and recommendations from the EC, our consultants that help with the annual meetings which are the organization’s biggest expense and fund raiser, and a variety of committees that shape the organization. We also take care of typical business issues such as approving expenditures and future meeting locations, and we have the opportunity to vote on the recipients of the awards given out at the annual meeting based on their submittals. These tasks are somewhat mundane at times but they are necessary to insure that the organization is run efficiently and remains healthy; and I am happy to report that the organization, as a whole, is healthy and has gotten through some of the challenges presented by events of the past few years.

2023 Annual Meeting, Portland Oregon, September 2023



The 2023 national meeting will be held in Portland, Oregon, September 19 to 24, just a few months away! There are several exiting field trips, including one to Mount St. Helens, that are associated with the meeting. A new feature of this meeting will be a virtual option for a portion of the meeting. Come join us at this exciting city for our 2023 Annual Meeting,

registration is open, visit [AEG Annual Meeting](#) to register. The 2024 annual meeting will be held in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, mark your calendars.

June Chapter meeting

We hope you will join us for the AEG Southern California meeting on **Tuesday, June 13th**, the meeting will be held at Victorio's Ristorante, in North Hollywood.

Speaker will be Shant Minas of Applied Earth Sciences, and a former Chair of the Southern California Chapter of AEG

Presentation Topic: "Everything but the Kitchen Sink": A Multidimensional Geotechnical, Geologic and Environmental Investigation for a Proposed Manufacturing and Office Facility on a Complicated Brownfield Site, Los Angeles, California.

From 2015 through 2019 Applied Earth Sciences conducted a series of geotechnical, geologic and environmental studies on a Brownfield property, located in the city of Los Angeles. The site location was complicated by numerous factors: it is situated at the toe of an ascending slope near two mapped landslides; within the wider Newport-Inglewood Fault Zone; adjacent to Ballona Creek (a major watershed draining the northern Los Angeles Basin); in a liquefaction zone, near existing oil wells/fields, a methane zone, and was previously used as a petroleum product transfer terminal by Chevron, with 10 (leaking) underground tanks and 3 aboveground tanks. Prior to our involvement on the property, several other firms had conducted extensive geotechnical and environmental studies, which needed to be reviewed and incorporated into our analysis. Prior environmental reports indicated abundant gasoline and diesel contamination, which were partially remediated/removed. The site is also adjacent to a dry cleaner with a history of PCE and TCE contaminant discharges. Our client was a major corporation with plans to establish a mixed-use manufacturing and office facility on the site. AES conducted a multidimensional, multiyear investigation and analysis consisting of prior records review, five geotechnical borings and laboratory testing, six environmental borings

with corresponding chemical analysis of samples, 13 cone penetrometer soundings for fault study, site and regional geologic mapping for landslide hazard, and preparation of numerous geotechnical, geologic and environmental reports. Mitigation recommendations included an impact wall and debris basin for debris storage as form of mitigation for landslide and mudflow hazard; mat foundation supported on piles to support the proposed buildings to mitigate the high groundwater and liquefaction potential; a portion of site set aside for dewatering and contaminated groundwater treatment prior to discharge into the creek; site grading to provide toe of slope setback; and a soil vapor mitigation system for the habitable buildings. Our reports were eventually approved by the LADBS for the construction of the proposed buildings, but the environmental remediation challenges remain, and the site remains vacant.

Speaker: Mr. Shant Minas, PG, CEG, PMP, Principal Geologist, Managing Director, Applied Earth Sciences, Glendale, California.

Meeting date: Tuesday, June 13th.

Location: Victorio's Ristorante, 10901 Victory Boulevard, North Hollywood, CA 91606, 818-762-9000.

Time: 5:45 pm Social Hour, 6:45 pm Dinner, 7:45 pm Program

Cost: \$45 per person with reservations in advance for AEG members, \$50 without reservations (at the door), FREE for students with a valid student ID and current AEG Student membership, the Student Membership is FREE as well, so join and get a free dinner.

Reservations: Please email Darrin Hasham at: DHASHAM@EARTHSYSTEMS.COM or call (909) 380-3289. Or reply to this email!

Please make reservations prior to 3 p.m., Monday, June 12th.

YEAR 2023 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 Southern California** to our section treasurer, Robert Woodford.

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.