



Call to Action

Save the California Board for Geologists and Geophysicists!

Dear California Professional Geologist:

You should be aware that the BGG has been eliminated effective October 23, 2009, and its responsibilities transferred to the engineer's board, BPELS. This action was taken by legislators under pressure to reach a budget compromise in the form of assembly bill AB 4X 20. This transfer, *which had no impact whatsoever on the budget*, was not accompanied by the resources or structure necessary for BPELS to fulfill its new mission. As it stands now, there will be no geologists or geophysicists on BPELS, there will be no name change to reflect its new mission, and BPELS will not have the manpower to perform its new functions - only two personnel years were reallocated from BGG. Although recent discussions with the BPELS Executive Officer, board staff, and a member of the board indicate they are working to address the operational issues in the spirit of good will, only legislation can address the name of the board and the type of professionals on it. The net effect of all this is that *your license* will soon be regulated by an agency that is ill equipped to handle the responsibility, and may face conflicts of interest when it comes to enforcement issues.

The good news is that there is something that can be done - *we can seek an injunction against implementation of AB4X 20*. The BGG was abolished suddenly and without due process, eliminating any open, fair and transparent review of the potential consequences. Existing law that carefully and deliberately outlines the specific measures and the timetable necessary for the elimination of boards and commissions was ignored entirely. The injunction will hopefully stop this action and require legislators to follow established procedures where informed voices can be heard in the formation of a board responsible for public safety.

To get started, the California Sections of AEG are forming the California Association of Professional Geologists, which will file the injunction. We hope that other organizations representing geoscientists, including AEG's national organization, will join in down the road. AEG, however, cannot fund this effort alone. We need your help! The estimated cost for this is \$15,000 to get through filing the initial complaint and up to \$100,000 to see it through to the end. Noting the early estimate of \$15,000, one geologist pledged \$100 and challenged 149 other geoscientists to match his gift. A great way to put it! We, of course, will gratefully accept all contributions, of greater or lesser amounts, based on your ability to give. Contributions may be sent to:

AEGSC-Political Action Fund
1772-J E. Avenida De Los Arboles, PMB #304
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

The other side to this effort is an approach to legislators. We will be asking you to write letters at the appropriate time and with the appropriate message. We are in the process of consulting with legislators to elicit their advice and support in reinstating the BGG or repurposing BPELS into an agency that is fully equipped to fulfill its mission. Information and updates will be posted on dedicated pages at www.aegsc.org and www.aegweb.org as they become available. With your help we can reach this important goal!

Sincerely,

Duane Kreuger, President
Association of Environmental &
Engineering Geologist