



ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

*"Serving Professionals in Engineering, Environmental and
Ground-Water Geology"*

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

MEETING NOTICE

Next month's meeting will focus on an issue that affects professionals in both the environmental and geotechnical fields: Tony Sawyer of the San Diego County DEH will update us on his department's stance on Monitoring Well and Boring Permits. I have asked his department to be sure to include a discussion of the boring permit waiver policy as part of his presentation. Many of us were unaware of the change in the format promulgated by the DEH in February for boring permit waivers. His presentation is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15, at 6:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the Ninyo & Moore main conference room at 5710 Ruffin Road, San Diego. An update notice will be sent requesting RSVPs. Please place on your calendar.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING (Notes by Jonathan Goodmacher, President)

Continuing our track record of getting two talks for the price of one we had Mark Burwell of Coast Geotechnical and Jacques Lord of Kleinfelder present on groundwater issues as they relate to construction dewatering. The following are my notes on their presentations. Any errors are due to my inattention to detail. I apologize to the speaker's if I have mis-represented their presentations in any way.

Mark presented a summary of conversations he had with the City of Encinitas regarding construction dewatering permits. According to Mark the City is starting to enforce regulations regarding construction dewatering and the need to test and monitor groundwater discharges. Also, they are shying away from permitting permanent dewatering systems. The consensus of those in attendance was that many of the other municipalities will be moving in a similar direction as a result of pressure from the Regional Board. Attached is a copy of a letter sent to Mark's offices outlining Encinitas' stance. We will be tracking this issue.



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Mark's presentation segued neatly into Jacques' on "Dewatering and NPDES Permits." Jacques presented his experience regarding the NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permitting process. The gist of his talk was that regulations have pushed construction dewatering from a geotechnical/scientific assessment of aquifer behavior into the environmental compliance arena. Water quality parameters have become the most recent limiting factor and potential major cost to a project's constructability. NPDES permit conditions often lead to the elimination of dewatering as a construction technique. From his experiences, Jacques related that in descending order the preferred methodology is to: 1. not dewater (you touch it, you bought it per the regulations); 2. re-use the water onsite (dust control, etc.); 3. discharge to the sanitary sewer; and, 4. if all else fails, go the NPDES route.

MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

In my capacity as President I recently contacted Dr. Gary Girty, Geologic Sciences Department Chair at SDSU, about making professionals available to students to discuss career options. We will be meeting sometime over the next month or so to discuss how to make this work. In the interim I would like to hear from any members with an interest in this subject. My contact information is presented at the end of this newsletter.

MISSION STATEMENT

The San Diego Chapter of the Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists (AEG) subscribes to the national AEG's mission statement. The Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists (AEG) contributes to its members' professional success and the public welfare by providing leadership, advocacy, and applied research in environmental and engineering geology.



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AEG AND USEFUL LOCAL LINKS

- Southern California Section: <http://www.aegsc.org/>
- National AEG: <http://www.aegweb.org/>
- San Diego Association of Geologists <http://www.sandiegogeologists.org>
- American Society of Civil Engineers,
San Diego Geotechnical Group
access their newsletter at http://www.asce-sd.org/groups_geotech.asp

EMPLOYMENT



Tetra Tech EMI

Tetra Tech EMI is currently hiring entry to mid-level (1 to 3 years) engineers and/or geologists for temporary to full time positions to work out of the San Diego office. Applicants must have 40 hour hazardous waste training and be available for travel. Positions open immediately. Please contact Steve Geyer at 619 525-7188 or fax resume to same at 619 525-7186.

Tetra Tech EMI is currently hiring entry to mid-level (1 to 3 years) engineers and/or geologists for temporary to full time positions to work out of the San Diego office. Applicants must have 40 hour hazardous waste training and be available for travel. Positions open immediately. Please contact Steve Geyer at 619 525-7188 or fax resume to same at 619 525-7186.



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

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

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

Engineering Geologist (Requisition #URS6997): Geologist/Engineering Geologist with 0 to 5 years of experience in consulting engineering firm; preferably with master's degree. Responsible for supervising field explorations, geologic mapping, and report preparation. Please apply on-line at: <http://www.urscorp.com/careers/index.html> and submit resumes to christine_eary@urscorp.com or:

Christine Eary
URS Corporation
1615 Murray Canyon Road, Suite 1000
San Diego, CA 92108
EOE/M/F/D/V

CHAPTER CONTACT INFORMATION

President	Jonathan Goodmacher	Ninyo & Moore	858.576.1000	jgoodmacher@ninyoandmoore.com
Secretary	Jacques Lord	Kleinfelder, Inc	858.320.2206	Jlord@kleinfelder.com
Treasurer	Steve Bradley	Tetra Tech EMI	619.321.6717	steve.bradley@ttemi.com
Newsletter	Brian Olson	Leighton & Assoc.	858.292.8030	bolson@leightongeo.com



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"Serving Professionals in Engineering, Environmental and Ground-Water Geology"

Oct-11-05 02:19pm From:

T-804 P.002/017 F-249



City of
Encinitas

October 11, 2005

Mr. Mark Barwell
Coast Geotechnical

Dear Mr. Barwell:

The City of Encinitas has been working with several contractors involving their groundwater dewatering operations, both during construction and for the life of the projects. The two periods of dewatering are distinct and are dealt with differently. At this point, the permits issued for dewatering have been with regards to dewatering operations during construction.

The construction dewatering permits have each been different. The City assesses each situation and issues dewatering permits accordingly. Factors such as flow rate, water quality, available storm drain infrastructure, and the ultimate receiving waters influence the approach that the City will take. The permits are issued on a case by case basis.

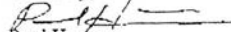
According to the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWQCB) Order 2001-96, they will not regulate groundwater discharges if the flow is less than 100,000 gallons per day and if the water is free of pollutants. However, since the groundwater is discharged to the City's stormwater conveyance, we (the City) choose to regulate the discharges to ensure that we are in compliance with our municipal stormwater permit (Order 2001-01).

Therefore, the City requires monitoring of the groundwater for pollutants and flow, and in some circumstances, treatment of the groundwater prior to discharge. Although not the case with the attached example, in the future, monitoring will be required to be in accordance with the requirements of Order 2001-96. This list of pollutants is significantly more extensive than what we have required up until this point. We feel that this analysis must be performed once prior to discharge to demonstrate that the water is free of pollutants and then some form of routine monitoring will be required as well to ensure continued compliance. This additional routine monitoring will be based on any impairment in the receiving water and the water quality data from the initial samples.

After construction, the City strongly recommends that structures are designed to withstand hydrostatic pressure and not need to pump groundwater to the surface. If pumping of groundwater to the surface is necessary, regular monitoring will be required for the life of the project. We have not encountered this case to my knowledge.

Please feel free to contact me at (760) 633-2787 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Paul Hartman
Sr. Environmental Specialist

cc: Masih Maher