

**ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL &
ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS**
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
"Serving Professionals in Engineering, Environmental and
Ground-Water Geology"

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER, APRIL 2008 NEWSLETTER

NO MEETING IN APRIL. What ever happened to March? We have been having difficulties in securing speakers. We are working on a program for May that will involve the new City of San Diego and County of San Diego Storm Water Standards, Best Management Practices Requirements. Currently we are aiming toward a round table type format so the membership has the opportunity to ask questions in a less formal atmosphere. We want the membership to leave the meeting with a better idea of what the agencies consider the standard of practice for this work. Please download a copy of the proposed standards www.sandiego.gov/development-services/news/pdf/stormwatermanual.pdf

FUTURE MEETINGS

In **July**, the newly elected AEG President Dorian Elder-Mills will present a discussion of case studies in aggregate mining and reclamation. The time and place will be announced in our next newsletter.

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS COMMENTS – Steve Bradley, CEG

Fellow AEG members, as we review the list of members for Southern California it was surprising, and yet somewhat disconcerting, to see that the AEG has over 100 members residing in San Diego. My thanks go out to the handful of members who have actively participated in meetings over the past two years since the Chapter was formed. On the other hand, it appears that the organization has not reached out far enough to the majority of the membership. We realize that many members are heavily committed to other organizations and as such have limited availability to participate in the local AEG organization. As board members, we are making a commitment to contact the membership individually over the next two months to identify primary areas of common interest. In addition to that effort, we will actively make information on the organization and its benefits available to the local universities. The organization can be a wealth of information regarding career paths for undergraduates and graduates in the environmental and geological sciences.

As mentioned before, our goal is to provide information and support to the profession of engineering geology as it applies to our ability to conduct business in the region. We are also your connection to national and international sources of information and professionals that take an active role in shaping our profession. The monthly newsletters from the Section, the bi-monthly AEG News and the quarterly publication of the Environmental & Engineering Geoscience Jour-



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nal are examples of the power and dedication of the organization. For those of you who have not been to the AEG website lately, I would highly recommend re-visiting it at www.aegweb.org it is a wealth of information and a wonderful resource.

As the Chapter moves into our 3rd year of existence we will be modifying our approach to the meetings. We are moving away from the monthly meeting format and will instead focus on providing topical quarterly meetings/talks. Those meetings will include a joint meeting with the San Diego Association of Geologists as well as a meeting with ASCE Geotechnical group. Lee Vanderhurst has offered to take the lead on the meeting organization for this year along with support from the rest of the board. We sincerely hope that you all decide to become more active in the organization this year and with the feedback provided from the membership over the next few months, the board is committed to making a positive impact on the effectiveness of the profession in the region.

REPORT OF THE GEOTECHNICAL BORING PERMIT WORKGROUP

The purpose of this report is to communicate to the geotechnical community and other interested parties recent outcomes of the Geotechnical Boring Permit Technical Workgroup. The workgroup consists of AEG members and representatives of the County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health (DEH).

BACKGROUND

In November of 2005, Tony Sawyer of DEH presented to AEG a discussion of the rationale for current DEH requirements. During that meeting Tony invited us to form a workgroup with DEH to address issues the geotechnical community was having.

Much of early 2006 was spent forming the workgroup. Early on, DEH requested an agenda, a list of items we wanted to discuss in advance of our first meeting. These items were:

1. Exempting Air-track Borings and Cone Penetrometer Testing (where appropriate).
2. Increasing the depth at which a permit is required.
3. Revising the requirements for backfilling large-diameter borings.
4. Developing a process for appealing "cookie-cutter" solutions that do not work in particular cases.
5. Revising the waiver's hazardous material statement.
6. Developing an over-the-counter approval process.
7. Creating a flat or stepped fee (up to ten borings, up to 20 borings, etc.), rather than per boring.
8. Improving the forms (for example, allow space for descriptive entry for special situations).
9. Separate permit process for geotechnical borings.



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On July 25, 2006, we submitted the agenda. DEH met internally to review it on October 18, 2006, and we had our first combined meeting on November 28, 2006. We met again on January 30, 2007 and June 19, 2007. Our fourth and most recent meeting was held on January 16, 2008. Based on the results of the recent meeting, now seemed an appropriate time to communicate the outcomes to date.

Both DEH and AEG believe the workgroup is a useful communication link, and meetings will continue. As indicated below, some issues are not fully resolved, pending further research.

OUTCOMES

The outcomes are only loosely tied to the to the original agenda items in some cases. As the discussions evolved some became less relevant, or were folded in to others. The discussions below are deliberately brief to make them quick to digest. If you have additional questions, feel free to contact one of the workgroup members.

Expedited Review

Beginning April 1, 2008, DEH representatives will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 11am for an over-the-counter review of applications. If complete, a permit will be granted in 3 days. This process applies to non-SAM sites and includes borings and inclinometers. No additional fee will be assessed for the expedited review.

Permit Language

Previous permit language, shown in Figure 1, could contradict information contained in the permit application.

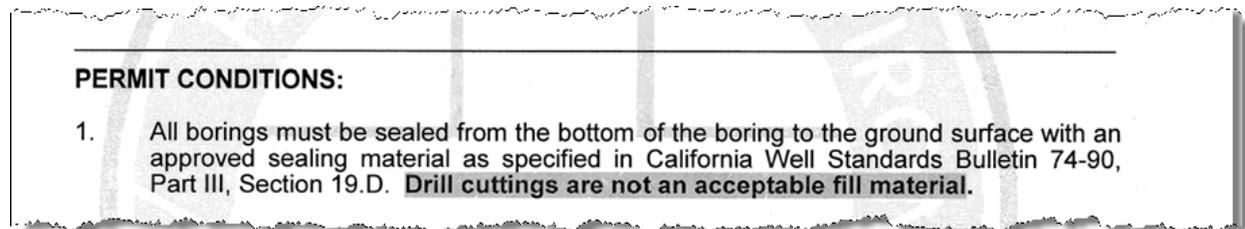


Figure 1



AEG proposed the language in Figure 2, which has been accepted and implemented by DEH.

PERMIT CONDITIONS:

1. Unless otherwise specified in the permit application, all borings must be sealed from the bottom of the boring to the ground surface with an approved sealing material as specified in California Well Standards Bulletin 74-90, Part III, Section 19.D.

Figure 2

Adding Borings While Drilling

Several consultants had been penalized for adding borings during drilling and not following the requirements shown in Figure 3.

PERMIT MODIFICATIONS:

Permit modifications will be granted if the MWP is notified at the time of initial drilling activities that further work is needed. We will require a written request for a modification, including the additional fees and a revised site map, to be submitted to our office within 48 hours.

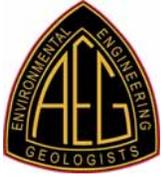
Figure 3

AEG reasoned that these requirements were unreasonable and unnecessarily punitive. DEH agreed to, and has implemented, the following revision to this policy (Figure 4).

PERMIT MODIFICATIONS:

Should field conditions warrant additional wells or borings during initial drilling activities, this office must be notified as soon as possible by phone (619) 338-2339 and followed up via fax (619-338-2315) or e-mail (deh.monitoringwells@sdcounty.ca.gov) within 48 hours. The additional fees and a revised site map must be submitted with the 60-day log report.

Figure 4



Permit Fees for Large Numbers of Borings

When preparing an application for more than approximately 20 borings, contact DEH and ask them to determine the cost of the permit on a "time and materials" basis rather than a "per boring" basis. According to DEH, very large projects often don't require enough extra work to justify the fee calculated using the application's per boring cost (Section G).

Multiple Mobilizations/Multiple Drillers on the Project

When a project is planned to utilize more than one drilling company, provide one signature page (Page 1 of the application) for each driller. The remaining application packet does not need to be duplicated. Fees are calculated based on the total numbers of borings rather than for each driller (i.e., only one "first boring" charge). DEH must be notified 48 hours in advance of each mobilization.

If a rig breaks down during a job and another driller must be brought in to finish, notify DEH over the phone, follow up with a fax or e-mail to document the conversation, and submit a new signature page (Page 1) as soon as possible.

Backfilling Large-Diameter Borings

DEH has agreed to allow variations to their *Requirements for Large Diameter Geotechnical Boring Destruction*. Variations will be granted on a case-by-case basis. The consultants should consider standardizing their approaches to common geologic conditions, rather than each firm developing their own.

Air-Track Borings

DEH considers air-track borings to be subject to the same requirements as wells. Because air-track drillers don't carry C-57 licenses, DEH will accept C-61 licenses. However, only one of the three drillers we reviewed utilized carried a C-61. Jon Senaha of DEH will follow up the state licensing board for more information.

Increasing the Depth at Which a Permit is Required

DEH has not agreed to increase the depth requirement.

Cone Penetrometer Tests

DEH has recommended pressurized grouting from the bottom up upon extraction during cone penetrometer tests (CPTs). AEG's stance is that it will severely impact our ability in the future to use CPTs for economic reasons; grouting the remaining void from the surface may be sufficient, and the professionals should be given the latitude to make that call based on conditions observed in the field. Action item: Jon Senaha of DEH will contact the Department of Water Resources for their interpretation of the standard. This issue remains open for discussion.



1. CLOSING

As mentioned, DEH has agreed to continue meeting on a regular basis and the next meeting will be scheduled in July, 2008 to give the counter approval process some time to work.

The workgroup consisted of:

Jim McLaughlin, Geocon (co-chair)

Jon Senaha, DEH (co-chair)

Kerry Cato, Cato Geoscience, Inc.

James Clay, DEH

Randy Wagner, Leighton & Associates

Kevin Heaton, DEH

Shawn Weedon, Geocon

Mike Verneti, DEH

Troy Reist, Geocon

Tony Sawyer, DEH

Paul Elliott, Geotechnics Incorporated

Michelle Bostrom, SECOR

Steve Fitzwilliam, Geosyntec

Tim Adair

Mike Hart

Ron Hallum, Ninyo & Moore

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE FIELD:

- The next Board for Geologists and Geophysicists meeting will be held May 9, 2008 at The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, 9174 Sky Park Court, San Diego, CA 92123. Here's your chance to vent your ignimbrites.
- San Diego State is sponsoring a fantastic field trip to Torrey Pines Beach in April. The beach cliffs along this traverse exhibit one of the best exposed and best understood fossil submarine canyons in the world. On our walking excursion we will study facies of the older, shallow water Del Mar and Torrey formations, and compare and contrast them with the varied deeper facies of the overlying Ardath and Scripps formations that filled the submarine canyon. We will trace out the unconformity that separates the shallow facies from the deeper submarine canyon channels; this surface has been identified on several different continents, and is interpreted as a global eustatic low-stand sequence boundary.

When: Sunday, April 13, 2008; noon to ~6 pm.

Meeting Place: Parking lot near restrooms, South Beach & Reserve Entrance, Torrey Pines State Reserve (<http://www.torreypine.org/index.html>).



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Cost: Park entrance fee is \$8/vehicle; field trip is free; a field guide will be provided; trip is open to all interested persons.

Please RSVP by April 10 to: Dr. Jared Morrow, Dept. of Geological Sciences, SDSU
Tel.: 619-594-1395; jmorrow@geology.sdsu.edu.

- The newly formed AEG Student/Young Professional Support Committee is initiating a Visiting Professionals Program in order to reach more students earlier in their academic careers. Visiting Professionals will communicate about the field of environmental and engineering geology and explain to students how AEG can support them as they pursue their education and career in geology.

This initiative is just one of several the committee is pursuing to reach students and young professionals, including developing a Face Book page, a "Welcome to the Profession" package, and a graduation gift of one year's professional membership to graduating AEG student members. Since the committee believes face-to-face contact with AEG members has the potential for a very positive impact with students and young professionals, we are starting the Visiting Professionals Program first.

We are calling for volunteers to serve as Visiting Professionals. We especially want to reach students at schools that don't have the support an AEG Student Chapter. A Visiting Professional could choose from a variety of presentations including an informal question and answer session with a campus geology club, a talk about your experiences throughout your career, or a more formal presentation of a case study.

We'd like you to consider one visit during the academic year to a campus in your area to help us launch this program. If travel is involved, we anticipate the availability of funding to support travel expenses, though we do ask you to volunteer your valuable time.

If you are interested please contact Becky Roland at broland@aegweb.org.

If you are not receiving a newsletter, please contact Lee Vanderhurst at lvanderhurst@geotechnicsinc.com. We receive at least 5 "pings" a month indicating a change of address or bad address information.

MISSION STATEMENT

The San Diego Chapter of the 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 AEG: <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 http://www.asce-sd.org/groups_geotech.asp
- San Diego State University,
Geology Department <http://www.geology.sdsu.edu>

EMPLOYMENT

PALEONTOLOGICAL FIELD MANAGER SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Coordinate paleontological field activities (i.e., supervision of field monitors in prospecting for and collection of fossils and the recording of stratigraphic, taphonomic, geographic, and topographic data) and production of final project reports that summarize the methods and preliminary results of paleontological salvage activities. Other duties include generation of initial discovery letter reports for City, County, and/or State agency managers and generation of paleontological resource assessment technical reports. Opportunities also include paleontological field work in the Southern California region and working with the extensive fossil collections of the San Diego Natural History Museum.

Qualified candidates must have at least a B.S. Degree in Geology or Paleobiology; 2 to 3 years of relevant experience (especially sedimentary geology and paleontology); excellent supervisory/managerial, verbal, written, and interpersonal skills; and a strong work ethic, intense drive, and initiative for quality and customer service. This position is a regular, full-time salaried position with a generous benefits package (e.g., full medical and 401K plan). Compensation will be based on individual qualifications and experience (annual salary range \$40,000 to \$60,000). Please send resumes to Yvonne Kugies (ykugies@sdnhm.org).

Ninyo & Moore has openings in the geotechnical division of our San Diego, California office for project-level soil engineers and engineering geologists. The successful candidate will perform geotechnical engineering services related to public works projects, private developments, and forensic evaluations. The candidate will manage projects, including meeting and interacting with clients and managing project budgets. The Project Engineer or Geologist will also review and analyze documents, coordinate and direct field activities, including logging and sampling of borings, test pits, and cores, assign and analyze laboratory testing, and prepare geotechnical evaluation reports. Excellent benefits and competitive salary are provided.

Requirements include a B.S./M.S. in Geology/Civil/Geotechnical/Construction Engineering or Engineering Geology/Geological Engineering. Ideal candidates will have a geotechnical engineering, earth science, or construction background, with 2+ years of experience. The candidate



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must be detail-oriented and possess excellent verbal and written communication skills, as well as sensible time management skills. A positive attitude and strong work ethic will enable the candidate to excel in this position and integrate with an excellent team of professionals. California P.E. or P.G. desired, but not required.

Ninyo & Moore is an equal opportunity employer and offers excellent benefits and a rewarding professional environment. Compensation is competitive and commensurate with experience. Please respond to nmcareers@ninyoandmoore.com

As a service to our members, AEG San Diego welcomes job postings - either for open positions or jobs wanted. Please contact Lee Vanderhurst (lvanderhurst@geotechnicsinc.com) for information on advertising in this newsletter. The cost for an ad is \$25 per month.

CHAPTER CONTACT INFORMATION

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