

# ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER  
"Serving Professionals in Engineering, Environmental and Ground-Water Geology"

## San Diego Chapter, August 2006 Newsletter

**AUGUST MEETING NOTICE: TUESDAY, August 8, 2006.** Social Period starts at 5:30 PM, talk at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be at the offices of Ninyo & Moore, 5710 Ruffin Road, San Diego. Dinner is buffet-style. Cost is \$20. Please contact Ashley Galland (agalland@ninyoandmoore.com) to RSVP.

Dr. Blayne Hartman of H&P Mobile GeoChemistry will join us to discuss laboratory testing of soil, groundwater, and soil vapor. He will discuss in detail the new ASTM guidelines on taste testing of groundwater. Olfactory classification of soil vapor will also be of interest. Dr. Hartman has over 20 years of experience in low-temperature geochemistry, including 7 years as the chief technical person at H&P's predecessor company Transglobal Exploration and Geoscience (TEG). Dr. Hartman's academic research included a variety of geochemical projects including: petroleum tracing using stable and radiogenic compounds as tracers; gas transfer across air-water interfaces; and gas chromatography of dissolved gases in water and sediments. Prior to founding TEG, Dr. Hartman was chief marine geochemist with InterOcean Systems where his responsibilities included direction of marine sediment and bottom-water geochemical exploration programs. As a research geochemist with Unocal Research, Dr. Hartman was responsible for development of geochemical prospecting techniques in onshore and offshore applications. These research operations included extensive method development and use of a variety of gas chromatography. Other research included use of stable metal isotopes as correlation parameters for organic materials. Currently, Dr. Hartman is personally responsible for directing geochemical development, equipment design and maintenance, applications development, and implementation of environmental programs, analyses, and reporting.

### **SUMMARY OF JULY'S MEETING (Notes by Lee Vanderhurst, Secretary)**

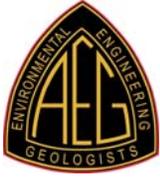
August's meeting featured Dr. Jerry Higgins' well received discussion of rock fall analysis and mitigation. He discussed the history of analysis and presented a cornucopia of mitigation measures ranging from the mundane to the extravagant. Colorado and, in particular, I-70 is the center of rock fall research. Mitigation measures include; Ritchey Ditches (catchment basins or earthen berms designed to collect rolling debris), scaling and individual rock removal, rock bolting, cable drapes (giant chain-link fence bolted to the slope face to restrain rambunctious rogue rounded rocks, and high tech fences with cable shock absorbers.

The SA/M Workshop Committee met after the formal meeting and prepared a letter outlining the memberships concerns and topics for discussion. The letter has been sent to the County of San Diego and we are awaiting a reply.

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

As discussed at the last meeting... We (local members) need to think about organizational continuity. The term of the current officers ends in September and we will be soliciting volunteers and input from the membership. Please think about participating. As President I probably spend about 4 or 5 hours a month in organizing and planning. It's not a major commitment of time and is a good way to maintain and develop contacts within the community of consultants.

The 2007 AEG National Convention will be held in Los Angeles. The 50th Anniversary of the founding of the AEG will be celebrated at this convention. As part of that planning I am responsible for reporting back to the committee on desired short courses. At this time the committee is considering short courses on geostatistics, geophysical techniques, age-dating techniques, and landslides. We are also seeking suggestions for fieldtrips. FYI, the 2007



convention is scheduled for September 24 through 28, 2007. It will be held at the Sheraton Universal Hotel (near Universal Studios). The committee organizing that convention has made quite a bit of progress. As of today we are looking at 25 half-day technical sessions and/or symposia. Different ideas for symposia include:

- Regulatory Reviews
- Paleoseismology
- Visioning the Future
- An unspecified environmental geology subject
- Levees
- Tunnels
- Landslide issues
- Coastal erosion issues
- An unspecified groundwater subject

#### **UPCOMING SAN DIEGO AEG MEETINGS:**

**September 19, 2006:** Dr. Thomas Rockwell of San Diego State University will present an overview of the neotectonics of the San Diego region. It will include work relative to the Agua Blanca Fault in northern Baja California and how there are ties northward along the coastal system of faults into Los Angeles basin. The Rose Canyon and related faults will be discussed in some detail, including the likely size of the past large earthquakes that have struck the San Diego area. There will be a brief discussion on long-term patterns of strain release and implications to near-term seismic hazard assessment.

FYI, we are always in need of interesting talks in the environmental and engineering geology arenas. Please send your ideas in to [jgoodmacher@ninyoandmoore.com](mailto:jgoodmacher@ninyoandmoore.com).

#### **MEETINGS OF AFFILIATED GROUPS AND SAN DIEGO AREA SEMINARS/PRESENTATIONS/EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**There were no new announcements at the time of this publication.**

The **Groundwater Resources Association of California** has several events coming up that may be of interest to the consulting community. A list is presented below. Go to [www.grac.org](http://www.grac.org).

GRA Course	<b><u>Model Calibration and Predictive Uncertainty Analysis Using PEST</u></b>	Sept 13-15, 2006 San Francisco
Annual Meeting	<b><u>GRA Annual Meeting</u></b>	Sept 20-22, 2006 San Diego
GRA Course	<b><u>Introduction to Groundwater and Watershed Hydrology</u></b>	October 2-3, 2006 Glendale, CA
Groundwater Contaminant Series No. 19	<b><u>High Resolution Site Characterization and Monitoring</u></b>	November 14-16, 2006. Long Beach, CA

#### **NEWS FROM THE BOARD FOR GEOLOGISTS AND GEOPHYSICISTS**

The State Board for Geologists and Geophysicists is proposing to change the Code of Professional Conduct. Presented below are web links to the notices regarding the proposed changes and the language of the proposed changes.

[Notice of Regulatory Changes](#);

[Initial Statement of Reasons](#)

[Proposed Language](#)



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**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.

**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.sandiegoengineers.org>
- American Society of Civil Engineers, San Diego Geotechnical Group [http://www.asce-sd.org/groups\\_geotech.asp](http://www.asce-sd.org/groups_geotech.asp)
- San Diego State University, Geology Department <http://www.geology.sdsu.edu>

**EMPLOYMENT**

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](mailto: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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