

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

## **San Diego Chapter, February 2009 Newsletter**

### **AEG MEETING NOTICE: MONDAY, MARCH 09, 2009.**

#### **FIRST 2009 AEG OFFICERS MEETING!**

The newly elected officers of the San Diego Section of AEG held their first executive meeting Monday, January 19. The transfer of responsibilities was successful. Major points discussed included AEG business (banking, when and where to hold monthly meetings, content of the newsletter, meeting presenters/topics, and participation with the National/Regional AEG.

#### **MINUTES/DISCUSSION**

In attendance at the first executive meeting for 2009 were: Robert Stroh (president), Dave Russell (Treasurer), Darren Knight (secretary) and the former officers Lee Vanderhurst, Steve Bradley, and Jonathan Goodmacher. Thank-you to the former AEG San Diego Officers for several (years?) of excellent service!

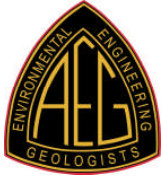
The meeting came to order at 6:00 pm and was concluded by 8 pm. Topics covered consisted of:

- Transferring signatory authority for financial management;
- Newsletter content, presentations and notices;
- Meeting location, day, and time;
- Communication with Section AEG; and
- Use of Project Partners for newsletter dissemination.

Newsletter content is short this month but we will look for additional input and content relating to the regional AEG.

Join us at Giovanni's Italian Restaurant **Monday March 9th**. Giovanni's has excellent accommodations for our monthly meetings. Social Period starts at 5:30 PM; presentation is at 6:00 pm. Giovanni's is located at 9353 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard (just west of Ruffin Road [See Map](#)) Please contact Robert Stroh [rstroh@leightongroup.com](mailto:rstroh@leightongroup.com) to RSVP. The cost is \$20 per person for a buffet consisting of pizza, salad, garlic bread and soda. Beer and drinks are available at extra cost.

**Our speaker for the Thursday night's meeting is Bob Stroh**, Newly elected President of the San Diego Chapter of AEG who will be presenting a discussion on the "Evidence for Active Faulting on the Old Town Fault, San Diego, California". The Abstract is attached.



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## CONFERENCES

The AEG is sponsoring the Shelmon Specialty Conference on "Investigation, Risk Analysis, and Mitigation of Surface Faulting". This conference is being held Thursday and Friday, February 19 & 20, 2009 at the UCR-Palm Desert Graduate Center, 75080 Frank Sinatra Drive at Cook Street in Palm Desert, California. Cost for AEG members is only \$260 per person. More information and registration form is available at [www.aegweb.org](http://www.aegweb.org).

ADVANCING NEW MADRID REGION TIME-HISTORY DETERMINATION. An Advanced-Practice Specialty Conference in Memphis, TN, June 3 – 5, 2009. More information is available at [www.aegweb.org](http://www.aegweb.org)

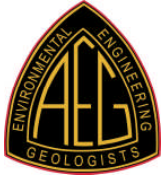
## PRESIDENTS COMMENTS BY BOB STROH

Remember to mark your calendar for the 2009 AEG Annual Meeting is being held September 21-29 at Harrah's Hotel and Casino in **Lake Tahoe**, get it on your calendar now.

## NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE FIELD

In other news... [Law School Mammoth](#) an adult Columbian (500,000 year old) Mammoth was discovered about 20-feet below street level during construction of the new Thomas Jefferson School of Law being constructed at 11<sup>th</sup> and Island downtown. This find is significant and represents the only relatively intact mammoth skull ever found in San Diego. Two mostly intact tusks 8-10 feet in length and the skull are being carefully removed and documented. Construction has been put on hold while the mammoth is excavated. It is unknown how much of the mammoth skeleton will be eventually be found. The remains will eventually be put on display at the San Diego Natural History Museum.

The County of San Diego Site Assessment and Mitigation Monitoring Well Program (MWP) has issued recent procedural changes and clarifications pertaining to the application for geotechnical or environmental borings and monitoring wells effective April 1, 2009. The changes affect permits, fees, reporting and submittals, and notification of changes in number of borings or wells in original scope of work on an existing permit. Please contact James G. Clay, Environmental Health Specialist III, Site assessment and Mitigation Program, Department of Environmental Health at 619-338-2205 or [james.clay@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:james.clay@sdcounty.ca.gov) for additional information.



## 1-DAY CPT SHORT COURSE



**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:**  
Friday - FEBRUARY 27, 2009  
Huntington Beach

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA:**  
Friday - MARCH 6, 2009  
Concord

*For more information visit:  
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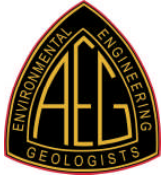
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### AEG AND USEFUL LOCAL LINKS

- 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](http://www.asce-sd.org/groups_geotech.asp)
- San Diego State University, Geology Department <http://www.geology.sdsu.edu>

As a service to our members, AEG San Diego welcomes job postings - either for open positions or jobs wanted. Please contact Darren Knight ([dknight@stgcx.com](mailto:dknight@stgcx.com)) for information on advertising in this newsletter. The cost for an ad is \$25 per month



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If you are not receiving a newsletter, please contact Darren Knight at [dknight@stgcx.com](mailto:dknight@stgcx.com).

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Solutions You Can Build On

### **Evidence for Active Faulting on the Old Town Fault, San Diego, California**

The active Rose Canyon Fault Zone (RCFZ) is located in San Diego, California, and consists of predominantly right-lateral strike-slip faults that extend through the San Diego metropolitan area for a distance of approximately 10 miles. In 1991, in response to recognized active faulting within portions of the RCFZ, the State of California established Earthquake Fault Zones (EFZ) in the northern and southernmost portions of the RCFZ, and has since revised some of the EFZs in 2003. However, due to the presence of dense urban development along the central portions of the RCFZ and a lack of evidence to support active faulting in that area, the State did not map an EFZ across the middle portions of the RCFZ between the existing zones.

Recent fault exploration in the Old Town area of San Diego, located between the existing State EFZs and within a City of San Diego Fault Zone, has resulted in providing new evidence for active faulting along previously unzoned portions of the RCFZ. The study included excavation of five exploration trenches across the project site, which exposed fill, historical alluvium, alluvium/colluvium, late Pleistocene-age terrace deposits, and Pliocene-age San Diego Formation. In addition, the trench explorations indicated that the site was transected by several northwest trending discontinuous and en echelon faults.

One of the observed faults had characteristics that indicate a relatively youthful (late Holocene) age. The remainder of the faults encountered, had a generally well healed and tight character, indicating a relatively older age. The majority of the faults observed at the site generally had no overlying soil development left in-place (due to site grading) that could be utilized to evaluate the relative age of faulting. However, a faulted buried soil horizon was encountered during our study that provided an adequate quantity of final charcoal for AMS dating methods. Radiocarbon dates for that soil unit indicate an early Holocene-age (7,000 to 9,000 years BP). Based on these dates, we conclude that the faulting observed at the site should be classified as active.

Also, our analysis of 1928 pre-development stereo photographs indicate that the main fault trace (referred to in this portion of San Diego as the Old Town Fault) is located just south of the area explored by our fault trenches. In addition, tonal lineaments along with topographic features such as a small pressure ridge located between the observed site faults and the main fault trace corroborate that the faults observed at the site are active secondary fault strands associated with the main fault trace located to the south.