



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

San Diego Chapter, September 2006 Newsletter

SEPTEMBER MEETING NOTICE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER, 19 2006. Social Period starts at 5:30 PM, talk at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be in the cozy confines of The Butcher Shop Restaurant conveniently located at 5255 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego (858/565-2272). Dinner Cost is **\$30**. Please contact Ashley Galland (agalland@ninyoandmoore.com) to RSVP.

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.

Dr. Rockwell is an internationally recognized expert in the field of neotectonics. His primary focus in recent years has been split between general neotectonic studies and the more specialized subfield of paleoseismology. Neotectonics is the study of active crustal deformation and usually involves resolution of the senses and rates of fault slip for both surface and blind faults. Paleoseismology is the study of past earthquakes, usually prehistoric, using geologic means such as trenching. Both disciplines are highly field oriented. Dr. Rockwell is particularly interested in what paleoseismology can tell us about how faults behave, whether earthquakes recur in a predictable fashion, and what the hazard associated with specific fault zones is. Much of his recent work has been overseas (Turkey, Israel, Mongolia, Argentina). However, he continues to work on faults in southern California and northern Mexico

SUMMARY OF AUGUST'S MEETING (Notes by Lee Vanderhurst, Secretary)

August's meeting featured Dr. Blayne Hartman of H&P Mobile GeoChemistry. Dr. Hartman regaled the group with a cautionary tale of bureaucracy, science, and law, always a volatile mix. We are in the midst of "risk assignment" for soil vapor and as a result, the regulations vary widely from agency to agency. As all is sorted out, the consultant is left in a quandary; what once was safe, is no more. But the definition of safe changes from day to day. Go conservative or go home... Dr. Hartman extolled the virtues of aggressive sampling in the field as a key to aiding your client. An abundance of data is always a good thing.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

The current officer's believe that the AEG San Diego Chapter fulfills a need in the consulting community for a group that will consistently track issues affecting our professional lives and that will educate us about new techniques, technology, and research affecting our job performance. To assist with the first of these goals we have solicited two volunteers that have agreed to assist us in staying on top of regulatory issues in the fields of geotechnical and environmental geology. Mark Burwell of Coast Geotechnical has agreed to function as the agency liaison for geotechnical issues. Dr. Hooshang Nezafati of Tetra Tech has agreed to function as the agency liaison for environmental issues. Thanks for volunteering guys. As the year goes on we will update you on our progress in these two areas.

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).

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.

VOTE

Elections for next year's officers will be held at the September Meeting. Please exercise your constitutional rights by voting early and often. Ballots will be collected at the next meeting and the winners announced. In case of a tie, sudden death thumb wrestling will determine the winner, as usual.

UPCOMING SAN DIEGO AEG MEETINGS:

October 17, 2006: We have tentatively lined up Pat Brooks to talk about the Environmental Restoration at the Navy's Hunter's Point Shipyard in San Francisco. The location of the meeting will be announced at a later date.

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.

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

ASCE, Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2006, at the Butcher Shop, 6:00 PM, Dr. Jorge Meneses will discuss Testing of Geotechnical Systems using the World's Largest Earthquake Simulator.



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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.

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

MISCELLANEOUS

A questionnaire from the City of San Diego is attached. The City is seeking to improve their services and needs your help. Special attention should be paid to Question 14.

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.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>



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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) for information on advertising in this newsletter. The cost for an ad is \$25 per month.

CHAPTER CONTACT INFORMATION

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Development Services Department
Records Section – Feedback Survey

This survey is being conducted as part of The City of San Diego’s Business Process Reengineering. Your input is greatly appreciated and will be used to help us further improve services. THANK YOU for taking a moment to answer the following questions. Please see questions on back as well.

1. What “type” of customer are you?
(i.e. realtor, homeowner, architect, engineer, attorney, small business owner, etc.)

2. What type of Records do you generally request?

3. How often do you research/request information ?

4. What is that you like most about our Records service?

5. What is it you like least about our Records service?

6. Do our current Records services meet your needs?

7. Are there services that we don’t provide that you would like to see?

8. What does the “ideal” Records service look like for you and why?

9. Do you utilize our “self-service” options in Records?

9 a. How easy is the system to use for researching your request?

10. Do you usually schedule an appointment or use our walk-in service?

10 a. How long do you usually wait for service?

11. Do you need technical interpretation or assistance from the Record's staff for the Records you request?

11 a. If so, what type of Records Request do you need assistance with?

12. How would you rate the level of technical assistance that you receive?
(Excellent, just fine, needs improvement.....)

13. Please rate the “customer service” provided by our Records staff.
(Excellent, just fine, needs improvement.....)

14. Any other comments?