

AEG Inland Empire Chapter

Kerry Cato, Chapter Chair and Frank Jordan, Chapter Secretary

The November Meeting for the Inland Empire Chapter was held in Temecula, CA. Stephen Testa, Executive Officer of the California State Mining & Geology Board presented a talk on *“Status And Relevancy Of Licensure And Registration Of Geologists And Geophysicists In California And Its Implications”...Or....“Do We Still Need Our Stinking Badges.”* A spirited discussion about the licensing and the current actions in the State of California regarding licensing followed this presentation. The attendees for the meeting included: Joseph Aldern, **Kerry Cato**, David Gaddie, Dale Hamlehle, Alexander Sandy Jack, **Doug Johnston**, Frank Jordan, Debbie Kunath, John Lovegreen, Steve Maddox, Ernie Roumelis, **Mark Spykerman**, **Peter Thams** (SoCal Section Chair), and Chad Welke. There was no December Chapter meeting.

The January Meeting for the Inland Empire Chapter was held in Riverside, CA. Instead of a speaker we held a round-table discussion of the attendee's projects and other issues that affect the profession. In attendance were: **Kerry Cato**, Greg Collins, Mike Cook, **Mark Doerschlag**, David Gaddie, **Doug Johnston**, Frank Jordan, Brad McCardell, Richard Orr, **Gary Rasmussen**, and Tiana Rasmussen.

The February Meeting was held in Temecula, CA and Dr. Tom Rockwell presented an intriguing talk on *“The Long Paleoseismic Record of Earthquakes On The San Jacinto Fault: When Is The Next Local Big One.”* An interesting aspect of Dr. Rockwell's research is an apparent paleohistoric “alternating” seismic relationship between San Jacinto fault seismicity and San Andreas fault seismic activity; also in terms of pre-historic return intervals of earthquakes, both the San Jacinto fault and San Andreas fault are “overdue” for a large earthquake. This was one of our better-attended meetings in some time and those in attendance were: **Lisa Battatio**, Mitch Bornyasz, **Kerry Cato**, **Doug Cook**, Mike Cook, Terry Davis, **Mark Doerschlag**, David Gaddie, Dale Hamlehle, Janis Hernandez, **Doug Johnston**, Dave Jones, Frank Jordan, Debbie Kunath, Brad McCardell, James Olbinski, John Romano, **Mark Spykerman**, Donn Swartzkoph, Paul Theriault, and Chad Welke. The following students were also in attendance: Mike Buga, Tim Moore, Joseph Salazar, Barrett Slisbury, and Petra Stepancikova.

The Geological Sciences Department at Cal Poly Pomona is back in business after a bit of a scare last December when there was a movement afoot to close both of its degree programs. Geology Chair Jon Nourse met with the Cal Poly Provost and the Dean of Science on December 23 and was able to secure the Geology Department as it stands with a combined Geology-Integrated Earth Studies (IES) major. The Provost was receptive to his proposal to merge Geology and IES into one degree program within the existing Geology Department. It was clear during this

conversation that multiple letters of support from practicing geoscientists were an important factor that underscored the high value of a Geology degree from Cal Poly Pomona. Engineering Geology, Groundwater Geology, and Natural Hazards Analysis continue to be strong components of the program. Dr. Nourse and the Cal Poly Geology faculty wish to express their gratitude for the overwhelming support from the local geologic community.

In November the Board of Registration for Engineering and Land Surveyors (BPELS) met in Riverside, CA. This “Southern California” meeting was one of two that BPELS conducted, the other was a December meeting in Northern California, to address the geologic community regarding the recent change for BPELS to administer geologic licensing in the State of California. Public testimony was lively with about 15-20 geologists in attendance. It is still very early in this process and David Brown, Executive Officer of BPELS said that two staff members would be moved to the BPELS staff from the now eliminated BGG (Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists); however neither of these two positions would be a registered geologic professional. There was talk of future legislation that could add one geologist to the BPELS and add “geologist” to the title of the Board, but this would have to be addressed by legislative action and not BPELS. There was much interest in what would happen to the BGG’s existing Technical Advisory Committees (TAC), exam testing standards, disciplinary records, and the BGG licensing fund. It appears that rather than simply moving all existing TACs, the BPELS prefers to eliminate the TACs and to reformulate new TACs of their own. No firm answers were forthcoming on the other issues, but rather we were told that the BPELS was willing to work with geologists. Geologists in California are watching developments with interest, but we all realize that while promises of good will are assuring, the devil is in the details and time will tell how this administration of geologic licensure will work out.

On February 8, 2010, attorneys for the California Association of Professional Geologists filed a Petition for a Writ of Mandate and First Amended Complaint for Declaratory Relief against California Governor Schwarzenegger and the Director of the California Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), Brian Stiger seeking the reinstatement of the DCA’s BGG. The Mandate and Complaint contend that the state Legislature improperly eliminated the BGG during the 4th Extraordinary Session called to address the fiscal emergency *du joir* and transferred the administration of the Geologist Act to the BPELS without proper representation of the geologic licensees governed by the Act. In addition, the Mandate and Complaint state that the Governor exceeded constitutional and statutory limitations on his authority when he signed AB x4 20 into law.

The Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BPELS) has announced the schedule for administration of the upcoming ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology Examination, ASBOG Practice of Geology Exam, and the California Supplemental Component Exam. BPELS plans to offer tests only once a year in October (as compared to the former two tests/year offered

previously) and in only a northern California location (as compared to an additional southern California location previously). The Writ of Mandate contends that BPELS is not adequately administering the Act. BPELS is presently advertising for a TAC to draft and grade tests. Attempts to add one geologist to BPELS and to add “Geologists and Geophysicists” to the title of the Board (proposed by the union Professional Engineers in California Government in Assembly Bill AB1431) appear to be headed for failure unless the AB 1431 is amended to maintain the size of BPELS at its current number of 13 members.

In regard to the above-mentioned information, BPELS is recruiting licensed PG’s, PGP’s, CEG’s, and CHG’s in the State of California to assist with geologic examination development. To apply as a Subject Matter Expert, submit the recruitment form located at <http://www.geology.ca.gov/forms-pubs/smeapp.pdf>. For more information, contact the BPELS Examination Development Unit at 916/263-0922 or 916/263-2239.