



Association of Engineering Geologists
Inland Empire Chapter, Southern California Section
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Frank Jordan, President
Richard Orr, Chair, Membership Committee

Richard R. Gundry, Treasurer

(27-Sep-05)

OCTOBER MEETING NOTICE

Wednesday 5-Oct-2005

5:45 - 6:55	Geologist Orientation	Front Steps/Lobby, 1st Floor
7:00 - 7:30	Dinner (Joint Meeting)	Earth Science Exhibits Room, 1 st Floor
7:00 - 8:45	IGS/AEG Chapter Meeting	Meeting Room, 1 st Floor

Riverside Municipal Museum

Meeting Cost: \$8 to \$18

(Fund-raising donation suggested is \$5.00, or more)

(RSVP/Directions below)

Dear AEG Members:

This Month's Topics:

1. Nominations/Volunteers for 2006 AEG Officers

– *The Year for 2006* –

Speakers: Participation by all attendees; and, with discussion of ideas, and suggestions

2. Will Geologic Professionalism Do a 360 in 2005 ?

Speaker: Jason Preece, *Sr. Engineering Geologist, ENGEO Inc., San Ramon, CA*
President, California Council of Geoscience Organizations

Abstract:

In 1996, the idea of a California Council of Geoscience Organizations (CCGO) was born by Mr. Robert Tepel and others in a series of meetings in homes with incorporation and

establishment of its not-for-profit status being finalized in 1997. CCGO is an "organization of organizations", founded to coordinate all the diverse geoscience disciplines in California and give them a collective voice in Sacramento. Now, CCGO is a leader of recognized integrity in advancing programs and legislation that take into consideration California's diverse geologic conditions, advocating knowledgeable use of resources, and working to reduce the impact of geologic hazards. Our motto says it all; "An Advocate for the Profession in the Public Interest". *This talk will focus on the current state of affairs regarding Professional Geologists and Geophysicists, what CCGO is doing to preserve the licensure board, and what individuals can do to help.*

On January 7, 2005 after Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's State-of-the-State address, CCGO confirmed what it feared since late August 2004, that the elimination of the California Board for Geologists and Geophysicists (BGG) was a reality and that, what took some 40 years to build up to, could be erased with the stroke of a pen. What most of us don't realize is, before professional registration, a professional's credentials consisted of membership to astute societies and organizations. In reality, this is the template the Governor wishes us to return to, in essence a 360 degree turnaround, whereby professional organizations would administer training, qualification testing, and certifications to geologists for the public assurance of gaining quality geologic work for hire.

Geologists are not alone, some 100 boards and commissions are to be eliminated or reformed under the Governor's Reorganization Plan # 1 (GPR1), abolishing more than 1000 political appointments in the process. The BGG is one board we hope will survive GPR1 for very compelling reasons. The BGG best summarized the reasons for it not being eliminated in its letter to the Little Hoover Commission (LHC) of January 25, 2005 (See LHC Statement sidebar).

CCGO had also penned a letter to the LHC on January 24, 2005 stressing many points (See CCGO Response to LHC sidebar). After coming away from this talk and looking at future action, our efforts need to focus in several areas (See What can we do ? sidebar)

We went through this in 1995 with the Board Sunset Hearings. However, this time around we may have a more global issue. This is not just about licensing professionals, it is more about transferring a lot of power away from the Legislature and into the Executive branch. Big business has invested a lot of money and resources in the hopes of gaining regulatory changes that will facilitate their goals, it's even happening on a federal scale. The LHC is not likely to recommend approval of the GRP 1 and the Legislators are not happy with it, either. The plan, which may be already well on its way, is to place a major ballot measure up for vote. People who are not informed are likely to fall for the argument that these proposed changes will streamline government and save money. The reality is that many functions will be transferred to departments where far-reaching decisions can be made without the public even being aware of it.

The Speaker:

Mr. Preece has 21 years of engineering geology experience primarily in Northern California after obtaining a BS in Geology in 1983. He has performed a broad spectrum of engineering geology investigations in the environmental and geotechnical disciplines and became a Professional Geologist and Certified Engineering Geologist in 1995. He has been a member of the Association of Engineering Geologists since 1988, having started serving in volunteer positions for the San Francisco Section of AEG in 1993 that culminated with service as the Section Chair from 2000 to 2002. He currently is the President of the California Council of Geoscience Organizations (CCGO) and is a Senior Engineering Geologist with ENGEO Incorporated in San Ramon, California

[*Sidebar*]

Little Hoover Commission Statement

The Board serves a vital function in allowing the public to directly approach the entity that is responsible for the health, safety and welfare of Californians from geologic and geophysical hazards. Protection of the public through stringent licensure, regulation and enforcement of Professional Geologists and Geophysicists mitigates the loss of life and property due to natural hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides and environmental contamination.

Without a Board governed by the provisions of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, there may be a tendency to have a 'government in the shadows' instead of being a responsive entity that individual consumers may address. With a Board, there is an inherent transparency and direct accountability that may be lost within a Department-type structure. With the workshop approach as described in GRP 1, only public input is received, but no decisions are made publicly. Board meetings always have the voting done in public, ensuring the transparency of the decision-making process.

The Board uses no General Fund money, is self-supporting mainly through licensing fees and enforcement fines, and its Board Members all earn less than \$1000 annually for their incredible service to the public. There are no cost efficiencies by eliminating this Board.

The Board is comprised of appointees of both the Administration and the Legislature, staggered in terms of the date of appointment so that there is minimal loss of institutional memory over the long-term with the inevitable changes in administration."

CCGO Response to LHC

The BGG is ***self-supporting*** (thus there is no tax advantage to eliminating it), and is ***necessary for the health, safety, and protection of the general public*** in matters of the geosciences.

Every geologic disaster that requires local or state emergency response or emergency aid, such as the recent tragic re-activation of the La Conchita landslide, is a taxpayer expense. Licensure is the key to good geologic work that ***can reduce or prevent such disasters*** and the associated costs, including loss of life.

Licensed geologists have the education, mentoring, and practical experience to minimize the potential effects of these, and other, geologic hazards for the ***health, safety, and protection of the general public***.

Geology licensure boards across the country serve the function of maintaining the public trust by *keeping practitioners accountable* through the credential inspection and licensure examination process.

Board administration of a licensure law is *government in the sunshine*; the government can be held accountable for its actions just as it the profession that is licensed. By contrast, the bureaucratic form of licensure law administration envisioned in the CPR is *government in the shadows*.

What can we do ?

- 1 - Contact your Legislator/State Senator
- 2 - Get a definitive number of disciplinary actions, reprimand letters, registration denials, and such performed by the BGG during its lifetime.
- 3 - Try to determine some estimate of dollars saved the taxpayers on sites due to improved quality of science, interpretation, and remediation efforts performed at federal and state clean-up sites after passage of the Geologist and Geophysicists Act and formation of the BGG (1969).
- 4 - Identify the number of agencies that require a PG/PE stamp and/or those that only accept a PE but should or could also accept a PG/PE.
- 5 - Reference the number of private citizens who retain your services.
- 6 - Talk to everyone we know to be aware of what might be coming down the pike.
- 7 - In addition to writing our legislators individually, maybe write letters to the editors of newspapers, etc.

USEFUL LINKS

AEG Pacific Section <http://www.aegsf.org>

AEG <http://www.aegweb.org/indexf.html>

CCGO <http://www.ccco.org/>

BGG <http://www.geology.ca.gov/>

Message from the President

Please see AEG Inland Empire Chapter web-page at AEG Southern California Section Web-site: <http://www.aegsc.org/chapters/inlandempire/> .

Treasurer's Report Nothing significant to report

Election Of Officers

President Frank Jordan and Treasurer Rick Gundry Officer positions "tenure" ends this Calendar Year, effective 31-Dec-2005. Thus, the Inland Empire Chapter needs to not only think about future replacement Officers but begin to act immediately to move for the emplacement of those

Officers and additional Officers to begin in 2006.

Otherwise, the organization will fold, *per diem*, even though it has an extremely strong beginning with a significant amount of interest of professional individuals participating, and supporting the organization with terrific enthusiasm.

Thus, steps are planned to assist in this procedure for selection of Officers in the coming months and at the various places we will meet. It will take all of you to make the difference, and some of you to, well, step up to the plate, as a matter of speaking. (See calendar at Southern California Section web-site, Inland Empire Chapter: <http://www.aegsc.org/chapters/inlandempire>).

A volunteer or candidate for Officer of the Chapter need not to be a member of AEG, except for the position of President. NOTE: For other positions, membership in AEG is not a requirement (that would be one's own professional decision), but seemingly would be encouraged.

NOTE: Election of Officers will take place before November Meeting by e-Mail before the end of October. Results of election to be announced at November Meeting and December Notice of Meeting. Installment of elected Officers will occur at December Meeting, when new Officers begin. The outgoing President would become *Ex Officio* President (Past President).

Chapter Officers/Committees

As you can see in the letterhead of this message, the Chapter has two Officers, President and Treasurer, and one Committee Chair (Richard Orr, Membership). There is currently an Organic Committee, which is expected to be not long-term, composed of: Mike Cook, Frank Jordan, Doug Cook, Rick Gundry, and Gary Wallace.

There are likely a plethora of Officers or Committees needed, or maybe some crucial ones, as follows:

Vice-President South	Vice-President North
Secretary	Editor, Newsletter
Web-Person	Govt Affairs Liaison
Education/Outreach Chair/Comm	Fund-raising Chair
Field Trip Chair/Committee	Speaker Liaison
Political Contact Chair	Media Representative
(other ?)	

Perhaps you have other ideas we need to know about. If you are interested in any of these, or if you have other ideas, you need to make yourself known, and please let us know what are your ideas, thoughts, or recommendations, or your interest to be involved is, in the way you would like to..

Note: Discussion and Appointment of Committee Chairs and Committee Members will be discussed at October and November Meetings for appointments to be made by the current Board of two Officers at the November and December meetings.

Thanks

Thank you to the only three professionals who showed to attend the September Meeting in Temecula, as follows:

Mark Spykerman, **Earth Systems Southwest**;
Frank Jordan, **Gary S. Rasmussen and Associates, Inc.**; and,
Warhan Stejer, **Leighton and Associates, Inc.**

Some significant business was discussed in the lobby area, and the meeting and dinner was cancelled on the spot due to lack of attendance by others.

Sponsors - Contributors to Fundraising for Chapter inaugural Bank Account in 2005

We continue to seek voluntary contributions for building a foundational inaugural bank account. Again, we want to recognize those who have given 10-times or more than the minimum we requested to assist us when we sought \$5, 10, 15, 25, 35, or more from individuals or perhaps from Corporate sponsors. There are 7 of what we call **Petras Sponsor**, as follows:

- * **Richard L. Orr, Leighton Group Of Companies, Leighton and Associates, Inc., Rancho Cucamonga, California;**
- * **Roy J. Shlemon, Ph. D., Newport Beach, California;**
- * **N. Thomas Sheahan, Vice-President, Geomatrix Consultants Inc., Inland Empire Office, Corona, California;**
- * **Steven C. Suitt, Principal, Steven C. Suitt and Associates, Canyon Lake, California;**
- * **Richard R. Gundry, Agency Hydrologist - Water Rights, Southern California Agency, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Riverside, California;**
- * **Kerry Cato, Ph.D., President, Cato Geosciences, Inc., Temecula, California;**
- * **Jeffrey R. Keaton, Ph.D., Senior Principal Engineering Geologist, MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Inc., Los Angeles, California.**

PETRAS Sponsor

“Petras” is a Latin term for a large rock edifice, monolith or massif of strength (eg., Rock of Gibraltar), as different to “petros”, a term for a rock or stone, something one can pick up. It can mean something like a cornerstone, such as one set for the foundation of a building – something strong and set first from which a foundation is built for a larger structure needing the strength.

The distinguishing point is donations that recognize interest and generosity building foundational financial support to the Inland Empire Chapter in this inaugural year. And, ones that certainly take an immediate, bold and positive step. A solid contribution/donation is \$50.00 or more is **Petras Sponsor**. Other, smaller donations requested, and are as important. All donors will be recognized.

AEG/IGS Announces: SHORT COURSE - *LANDSLIDES*

Saturday November 5, 2005, UC Riverside Extension, Riverside, California.

The Instructor in Charge is Dr. Tien-Chang Lee, Professor of Geophysics and Hydrogeology, R.G., P.G., C.H.G., Department of Earth Sciences, University of California, Riverside. Topics to be presented by guest speakers are, as follows:

- "The climate of southern California" Richard Minnich, UCR Earth Sciences;
- "Some aspects of landslides in southern California" by Doug Morton, US Geological Survey;
- "Types of Landslides and Landslide Maps - Tools for Assessing Landslide Hazards in California" and "Seismically Induced Landslide Mapping in California" Pam Irvine, California Geological Survey;
- "2004-2005 El Nino Debris Flows in southern California" Rachel Alvarez, US Geological Survey;
- "Hardrock landslides and their failure mechanism" Michael Hart, MW Hart Engineering Geology;
- "Geotechnical photography" Woodrow Higdon, Geo-Tech Imagery International.

Description: Relate climate to landslides and debris flows in southern California; provide an overview and mechanism with site specific case histories, including slides in sedimentary layered areas and crystalline bedrock areas; identify historic landslides from air photos; describe methods on mapping and assessing slides induced by rainfalls and earthquakes.

The Inland Geological Society in cooperation with the Association of Engineering Geologists (Inland Empire Chapter) are sponsoring this short course centered on landslide topics in partnership with the Department of Earth Sciences, University of California, Riverside. Members have \$5.00 Fee discount. Course cost will assist 10 students with student fee; IGS and AEG may also sponsor additional students.

Fee: (coffee/lunch/handouts provided): \$60.00 Members, \$65.00 Non-Members, \$20.00 Students (reimbursement upon course attendance and completion for students). CEU Credit will be available. If interested in receiving Final Notice, with registration and location/map details, please contact Rick Gundry, PG, CPG (SME, AEG, AIPG, IGS member): rick.gundry@verizon.net. Registration details will be available through University of California, Riverside, Extension Services: register@ucx.ucr.edu. Information Brochure expected to be distributed shortly.

Geology Continuing Education Courses

Inland Geological Society, in partnership with the Department of Earth Sciences, is co-sponsoring a series of short courses to be offered through University of California Extension Service, University of California, Riverside. The series of courses are anticipated to be offered each quarter on different subjects of interest to the geology community in southern California. Speakers will be invited from academic institutions, governmental agencies, and professional service industry.

Coming this Fall (see announcement, this issue) is a short course on the subject of landslides, and is also co-sponsored by the Inland Empire Chapter, Southern California Section, Association of Engineering Geologists. The courses through University Extension will earn Continuing Education

Units for those completing courses. Future topics may include the following:

- Applied Geographic Information Systems
- Groundwater issues and problems in the inland areas of southern California
- Joint engineering geologic review & regulatory processes
- Economic geology, minerals industry (industrial minerals)
- Groundwater contaminant hydrogeology
- Faults and seismic hazards
- Water rights in southern California
- Other geologic hazards/Engineering Geology Topics

Based on interest or recommendations from You, the Chapter may be willing to also Co-Sponsor future short courses in this continuing series of education in 2006 and/or 2007. If you are interested in AEG to Co-Sponsor future short courses or interested in speaking/attending, have other ideas, or need information, please contact Rick Gundry: rick.gundry@verizon.net

Directions to Meeting and Cost:

The meeting area is located in the Riverside Municipal Museum in downtown in the City of Riverside located a few blocks off U.S. Hywy 91 on the northwest property corner at Orange Street and Mission Inn Avenue (aka 7th Street). This building is the former U.S. Post Office Building around the time of the turn of the penultimate Century, located at 3580 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA 92501. It is located immediately southeast of the intersection of Mission Inn Avenue and Orange Street, opposite southward from City Library and diagonally southeast from The Mission Inn.

From U.S. 91 heading North: Exit University Avenue (aka 8th Street). Proceed straight to Mission Inn Avenue and TURN Left (west) on Mission Inn Avenue, Museum will be on left.

From U.S. 91 Heading South: Exit Mission Inn Avenue, TURN Right (west) on Mission Inn Avenue, Museum will be on left.

From U.S. 60 heading east into Riverside, Take U.S. 91 South (follow directions above). From U.S. 60/I-215 heading west/north proceeding into Riverside, Take U.S. 91 South (follow directions as above). From I-15: Go east on U.S. 60 or North on U.S. 91 (follow corresponding directions as stated above), respectively.

Please: RSVP by **Thursday, September 29**: send eMail **RSVP** to Rick Gundry at rick.gundry@verizon.net, by COB 29-Sep-05, or call RSVP (951) 924-6756 to leave message. **IMPORTANT!** Thanks.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 16-Nov-05 at California Grill in Temecula. We need a volunteer speaker from within AEG for a short talk/topic. Please contact Rick or Frank if you have a short talk or story you are willing to express or share at this meeting (even a war story in the profession or unusual event or a professional opinion). Emphasis of meeting is result of Votes for Election of 2006 Officers and discussions by all with discussion and appointment of Committee Chairs, Committee Persons.

December Meeting: Corona, California, Wednesday 21-Dec-05, at Cask N' Cleaver Restaurant:

FUN Meeting, with Installment of New Officers for 2006 !

Contact Information:

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