



## BEWARE OF THE INACTIVE FAULTS

It is reported that the Planning Department staff of the County of San Bernardino has recommended, for specific tract(s), that structures not be built across the trace of a fault designated as inactive. The Planning Commission for the County has sustained this decision. It appears obvious that such decisions by planning personnel can lead to very large scale, undue hardship on the part of landowners and developers.

Association members wishing to provide some professional guidance for the Planning Department staff should contact Mr. Marion F. Ely, a staff associate environmental analyst at the County. Mr. Ely's telephone number is (714) 383-2187. Comments from geologists employed by municipalities and/or governmental agencies that have review capacity may be particularly beneficial.

## BRANNER GEOLOGIC CLUB OF SO. CALIF.

Dr. Lauren Wright will be guest speaker at Branner Club on 1/8/1980 on the geology of the Death Valley area. Branner Club meets at Athenaeum at Cal-Tech.

## GOTTCHA'

A local consultant has been informed by the City Engineer's office, City of West Covina, that by withholding a final compaction report for payment of outstanding invoices they (the consultant) were in violation of the Uniform Building Code. The "gottcha" behind all of this is that, according to the City of West Covina, once you begin to supply your services, your professional responsibility is directed to the City Engineer and not your client. Hopefully, this also means that the City Engineer will also pay outstanding invoices.

## GEOLOGIC QUOTES OF NOTE

"The county does not have to comply with its grading ordinance, as the county will always be there to repair in event of failure" . . . *eat your heart out, taxpayers.*

## STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION

At the last meeting of the State Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists the following motion was made by Dr. Petak:

"All State and local governmental employees who are filling positions identified as geologists, engineering geologists or geophysicists and who are practicing in the field of geology, engineering geology or geophysics shall be registered under the law of the State of California; further, shall adhere to the standards of practice and competency as set forth by the State Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists; further, each practicing governmental geologist, engineering geologist or geophysicist shall be subject to review and disciplinary action as established by this board and as applied to all other areas of practice under the jurisdiction of the board. Practice for governmental employees shall be defined as a minimum as reviewing and approval of geologic technical reports, plans, specifications and maps, or performance of independent geological analysis for governmental projects, example: schools, hospitals, roads, etc."

This obviously is a very important step being taken by the Board to equalize treatment for all of those licensed under the registration act. Hopefully, it will become a Board policy soon.

## PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Special Report 144 - "Processed Data from the Strong Motion Records of the Santa Barbara Earthquake of 12 August 1978, Final Results" (in 3 volumes)...\$10.00

Special Publication 53 - "Mines and Mineral Producers Active in California during 1978" ... \$1.00

G.S.A., "Geology and the Siting of Nuclear Power Plants," \$41.00; from Geological Society of America, Boulder, Colorado 80301. This publication contains articles by four section members, and is a valuable asset to libraries.

"It's what you learn after you know it all that counts."

GARY S. RASMUSSEN & ASSOCIATES are moving to larger quarters at 1811 South Commercenter West, San Bernardino (near Hwys. 15 + 10 interchange) - same phone.

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES "LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE" REQUIREMENT:**

Professional engineering geologists and soil engineers are required to register as a municipal legislative advocate pursuant to the City's legislative advocate ordinance (L.A.M.C. #48.01-48.09) if he "engage(s) himself for pay or any consideration, whether that pay or other consideration is paid specifically for the activity regulated by this Article or includes other activity as well,..." for the purpose of attempting to influence municipal legislation. Deputy City Attorney Anthony Saul Alperin has stated, "This office has concluded on numerous occasions that a person who is engaged to provide services to a client is required to register if those services include his appearance before a City agency in connection with the matter for which those services are rendered. If the professional seeks to influence the action of the Board or committee on an item based upon 'municipal legislation' (grading code) or is compensated as part of his services performed for his client," -he has to register and pay the prescribed fee. This code has been in effect since May 1967.

Mr. Alperin has indicated that if the geological or soil engineering professions do not feel that the law is fair or that we should be removed from the requirement, we should contact the City Council to revise the law. If we professionals do not register as required by the ordinance, we are subject to 30 days in jail or a \$500.00 fine or both, plus attorney fees. That means that professional geologists or soil engineers can become prosecuted by the City of Los Angeles if they answer questions or present technical/scientific data before a Board or Commission and fail to register as a "legislative advocate."

Recently, individual letters have been sent to Mrs. Joy Picus, City Councilwoman, District #3, relative to this matter. We suggest that A.E.G. and its members request the City Council to pass legislation exempting engineering geologists and soil engineers from L.A.M.C. Section 48.01-48.09 when responding to questions or presenting technical/scientific data relative to soil or geologic factors before a Board or Commission.

*MAIER'S LAW - If facts do not conform to the theory, they must be disposed of.*

*SPINOZA'S LAW - If facts conflict with a theory, either the theory must be changed or the facts.*

**EDITOR'S NOTE**

Starting next month, Dr. Don Lamar of Zip-a-Dip fame will begin a tour of duty as newsletter editor for the Southern California Section of A.E.G. All correspondence for the newsletter should be sent to Dr. Lamar at Lamar-Merifield, 1318 2nd Street, No. 27, Santa Monica, California 90401.

Please give Don your support by supplying him with all items that may be considered newsworthy to the distinguished group of scientists and geologic riff-raff who monthly leaf through these pages.

....George Larson

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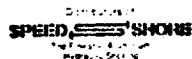
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