

# Association of Engineering Geologists

## Southern California Section

### NEWSLETTER- November 1991



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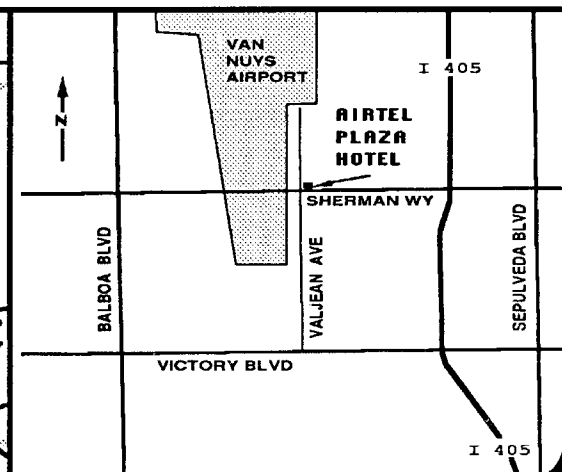
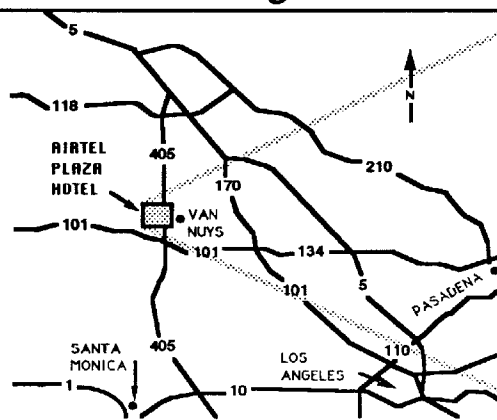
#### Dinner Meeting *Tuesday November 12th*

- The Airtel Plaza Hotel Restaurant  
7277 Valjean Avenue  
Van Nuys
- Cost - \$20.00 (Full-Time Students - Free)
- Make reservations by Friday November 8th!!!**  
Grace (Leighton & Associates) 714-860-7772  
(Leave Your Name & Number of People in Your Party)
- 5:30 Social Hour
- 6:45 Dinner
- 8:00 Program

#### Characterizing Petroleum Contaminants in Soil and Water and Determining Source of Pollutants

by Ian Kaplan, Ph.D. - Geochemist, President & CEO of  
Global Geochemical Corporation  
**Update on San Gabriel Valley  
Area Hydrogeochemistry**  
by Sanford L. Werner - Consulting Geohydrologist and  
Water Quality Specialist

#### MAP to Meeting



## PROGRAM Topics & Speakers

### **Characterizing Petroleum Contaminants in Soil and Water and Determining Source of Pollutants**

**Ian Kaplan, Ph.D. - Geochemist,  
President & CEO of  
Global Geochemical Corporation,  
Canoga Park, California**

The goals of handling hydrocarbon-based materials in our society are to prevent future spills and leaks, detect potential and former spills and leaks, and restore the environment after spills and leaks occur. Work in these areas have a focus on the chemistry of the materials and how they change as they migrate through the environment. Natural and man-made hydrocarbon deposits in soil and ground water are becoming more complex and difficult to differentiate and has thus become a special discipline. The source and age of hydrocarbon deposits found are often difficult to determine accurately to adequately plan for appropriate remedial measures. The importance of this determination is the identification of sources, tracing to the event(s) that lead to the deposit, and the prevention of spills and leaks, if necessary.

Dr. Kaplan has recently developed techniques to determine the sources of hydrocarbon deposits. These techniques involve, for example, use of isotopes and ratios of chemical compounds to differentiate the age and quantity of natural and man-made hydrocarbons in a deposit. He will discuss these techniques and examples of their use in case studies.

Dr. Kaplan has over 30 years of experience in geochemistry in Southern California. He has a Ph.D. in Biogeochemistry from the University of Southern California. He is a professor in the Department of Earth Sciences and Geophysics at UCLA. He is also currently president and chief executive officer of the firm Global Geochemical Corporation, in Canoga Park, California.

### **Update on San Gabriel Valley Area Hydrogeochemistry**

**Sanford L. Werner - Consulting Geohydrologist and Water Quality Specialist,  
Canoga Park, California**

The ground water in the San Gabriel Valley Area is a critical source of water in Southern California and has been studied extensively for a number of decades. Sanford Werner performed a detailed study of the geohydrochemistry in the San Gabriel Valley in the early 1960s using thousands of water quality data sets. From this data he determined some of the fundamental hydrogeological inorganic chemical trends in this area. He has since monitored the progress of work undertaken in the San Gabriel Valley with regard to water quality changes over the last 30 years and will present an overview of the developments that have occurred during this period.

Sanford Werner is a consulting geohydrologist and water quality specialist in Southern California. He has over 30 years of experience in performing numerous hydrogeochemical investigations in ground water basins throughout Southern California.

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### ***Southern California Section of AEG Annual Dues***

As AEG Members have probably already found out, local section dues are now collected by National AEG. The cost for non-AEG members to subscribe to the section newsletter is \$25.00 per year (\$10.00 for full-time students). If non-AEG members wish to continue receiving the newsletter each month, send a check payable to AEG Southern California Section to Tania Gonzalez, Leighton and Associates, 1470 S. Valley Vista Drive, Suite 150, Diamond Bar, California 91765. Check the date following your name in the mailing label to find out when your subscription will expire. For more information regarding newsletter subscription contact Tania at (714) 860-7772. For information regarding AEG membership, contact Mr. Tony Stirbys at (213) 362-6176.

## **REFLECTIONS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**(by Eldon Gath,  
Section Chairman)**

The 1991 National Meeting has come and gone. By some accounts it was not a successful meeting, as there were only 900 registrants though 1000 had been hoped for. There were several exhibitor no-shows, yet the meeting had the largest number of exhibitors in history. Field trips, short courses, and guest activities were sold out, and most had waiting lists. The drilling demonstrations were excellent on Thursday, with the various drilling companies demonstrating differing techniques to accomplish whatever engineering geologists might imagine they would want to do. The drilling demonstrations on Friday were washed out by torrential rains, unfortunate for the U. of Wisconsin and Michigan students who drove down for the day, but certainly educational in its own way. There was even a delegation of engineering geologists from the Soviet Union in attendance, and it is clear that we have as much to learn from them as they do from us. Their biggest problem is that they need a government that listens to and acts on their recommendations. They sure didn't learn anything here to help them with that problem.

We now look forward to hosting the 1992 meeting here in Long Beach. It will be a lot of work, but it will be fun work as well. I was involved in the 1982 GSA meeting in Anaheim. I was a room projector person. One of my projectors broke. I had to feed three speakers slides in by hand. I got to know those three speakers real well. They've forgiven me. I still see them at meetings and we laugh about it. But more than that, I was involved. It was fun. It was educational. It was a good feeling. It was intoxicating. It is sure cure for the blues.

We also need to look beyond that, and determine where we want to go as a section. Do we have any long range goals, beyond who next month's speaker is going to be? Do we want to get politically active? Do we want to get active in the educational process? Do we want to define the quality and state of practice? Do we want to become more visible as professionals deeply involved with public health and safety? Do we want to provide additional member benefits? Do we want to ... ? The answer to all of these questions is a simple NO!

No? Now wait just a minute, here. I thought all of these were obvious yes'es? Obvious to some, but unless there is a spark, there is no fire, just a smoke screen we can hide behind and claim there must be a fire somewhere in the haze. That spark has got to come from the membership. We are all the membership. We are all there is.

At the October Board of Directors (BOD) meeting, we adopted the Long Range Plan for the Association. The plan is pushing us to look 5 and 10 years into the future, outlining goals and strategies for the Association. Consequently, we now have to do the same as a Section. I will be convening a meeting in the coming weeks to put together a plan for our section. If you have any ideas on goals for us to accomplish in the coming years, if you have any strategies on how to achieve these goals, or especially if you want to lead us through your strategy, get in touch with me. I need your help on this.

Results of the Dues Statement poll on the Association name change was strongly negative. The idea of forming Divisions within AEG, similar to GSA's practice divisions, was supported. We are looking at ways to go on this idea via the existing practice subcommittees. More later.

One of the other items that will be coming up for you to understand is that a group of us, under the direction of now President Steve Garrison, looked hard at an Association reorganization that Steve had proposed at the April BOD. This issue was remanded to a subcommittee of five to review the need for change, the proposed change, the effects upon the sections and the membership, and the ways to go about introducing the measure, revising the measure, or scraping the measure. Most of us felt it was a good and necessary idea. Why?

The current BOD is composed of the Executive Council (Pres., VP, Sec., & Treas.), and the Chairmen of all of the Sections. Currently it stands in excess of 30. This is a lot of people, and each and every one has something to say about an issue. There is a real problem in that many of the Chairs are attending a BOD meeting for the first time. Many of the discussions return to old issues that have already been resolved, except the person raising them wasn't yet elected and so didn't know about it. Discussion is good if constructive. There is also a perceived problem in that each section chair gets one vote; one vote whether they represent 40 members or 400.

What is being recommended is a revision whereby the various sections would be grouped into Regions of about 400 members each. Sections would retain their current officer structure, but the section chair would no longer be on the BOD. Instead each region would select a Regional VP to represent them on the BOD. There would be eight such regions, thereby reducing the BOD to only 12 members. It is anticipated that the regional VP would not be a current section officer, but would be a person who is still active in Association affairs and would have a historical grasp of some of the past issues.

The regional VP would be selected by the sections on the basis of section Delegates. Each section gets one delegate (the current Chair), plus an additional delegate for every additional 50 members.

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING...

by Eldon Gath, Section Chairman

(Continued from Page 3)

The region's delegates get together annually to select the regional VP. The regional VP is expected to visit the local section meetings, and attend the 2-3 BOD meetings each year. All of the delegates will only meet once a year, at the Annual Meeting to discuss, and especially to learn about the affairs of the Association. Some regions are quite large: i.e. Sacramento, Washington-Oregon, and Alaska are combined into one region. Southern California is a single region (because we have 400+ members, not because no other section would combine with us).

The proposed reorganization plan has three distinct strengths: it brings a more manageable and experienced group to the BOD meetings.; it gets more people active in AEG affairs via the delegate route; it comes the closest to the one member one vote concept of American politics. Some of these strengths could also become weaknesses: the Regional VP position may become nothing more than a "good old boy" concept; we are having trouble enough getting members to help at the section level, now we have to worry about getting more involved; the member is one additional step removed from representation at the Association level.

Please think about all of this. I will put together a graphic showing what I tried to say here for the meeting this month, and for a future newsletter. We will be asked to approve the reorganization plan at the April BOD meeting, which if approved, will place the idea onto the Dues Statement for you all to vote on as a Constitutional Amendment. I believe it is a good idea that will work to all of our benefits, if we want it to. If we don't care, it won't. But, we won't care then either, I guess.

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Please use the services of these members and businesses. Their advertisements help pay the publication costs of the newsletter.

## Positions Available

Ads in this section are welcome at no cost.

### Job Opening for a Senior Engineering Geologists for the City of San Diego

Requirements: Certification as an Engineering Geologist with the California Board of Registration. Candidates must submit a copy of their certification at the time of application.

Education and/or experience in geotechnical engineering and knowledge of the geological characteristics of the San Diego area are highly desirable. Senior Engineering Geologists work in the City's Building Inspection Department and Engineering and Development Department. Duties include review building permit applications to determine the necessity and extent of geological evaluation needed; review submitted geological reconnaissance and investigative reports; evaluate proposed geological hazard mitigation measures; resolve investigation, report or mitigation disputes; review building and land development plans to ensure that designs include the proposed measures necessary to mitigate geologic hazards; visit project sites as necessary to identify or verify the existence of geological hazards; advise engineering geologists, engineers, architects, contractors and property owners of the City's geologic hazard requirements; update geologic hazard maps; prepare reports; and maintain records of geological reports, studies and data.

Salary: \$4115-\$4978 monthly, \$49,380-\$59,736 annually. Salary includes 10% additional pay for registration as a Geologist and certification as an Engineering Geologist with the State of California.

**Apply: Employment Information Center,**  
City Administration Building, Lobby 202 C Street,  
San Diego, California 92101-3861,  
or contact Mr. Edward L. Spicer, Deputy Director,  
Building Inspection Department @ (619) 236-6463.

### Career Opportunity for

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Irvine, CA 92718  
Attention: Dr. Peter R. Supko, General Manager.

### Position Available for Environmental Scientist

with 2 to 3 years experience in environmental risk assessments, underground storage tanks, compliance audits, oversight of drilling activities and soil/ground water sampling. Working knowledge of State and county regulations and excellent writing skills required. Send resume (in confidence) to:

**Ninyo & Moore**  
6150 Lusk Boulevard, Suite B-200  
San Diego, CA 92121  
Attention: L. Ashworth

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### Environmental Opportunities

Leighton and Associates, a leading geotechnical and environmental consulting firm has career opportunities available in Los Angeles and Orange Counties:

#### PROJECT/SENIOR PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

MS/PhD in Geology or Engineering and a minimum of eight years of environmental experience as well as professional registration (RG or PE) required. Candidates must also have applied expertise in project management, field supervision, report and proposal preparation, regulatory agency contacts and business development.

Leighton and Associates offers a competitive wage and benefits package. Candidates should submit resumes to:

**LEIGHTON AND ASSOCIATES**  
2121 Alton Parkway  
Irvine, California 92714

### Career Opportunities for mid-level geotechnical an/or Environmental Geologists and Engineers

Converse Consultants, a leading geotechnical, Environmental and Materials Engineering firm in California is presently interviewing for Project and Senior level geologists and engineers for the Inland Empire office, located in San Bernardino, California.

The positions require a minimum of 4 to 5 years of individual or combined experience in the Geotechnical or Environmental Engineering consulting field. Applicants should have BS degree in geology, geohydrology, civil engineering or related discipline. Written and verbal communications are mandatory and registration is preferred (RG/CEG/RCE/GE). Qualified candidates should submit resumes in confidence to:

**Converse Consultants**  
630 E. Brier Drive, Suite 100  
San Bernardino, California 92408  
Attention: David Simon

### THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA CONGRESSIONAL SCIENCE FELLOWSHIP

Beginning September 1992, GSA will sponsor one earth scientist to serve a one-year term in the office of a Congressional committee or as a U.S. House or Senate member. The Fellow's responsibilities will be to advise on a wide range of scientific issues related to public policy. Fellows perform in much the same way as regular staff members; they have the opportunity to be involved in varied legislative, oversight and investigative activities. They offer their special knowledge, skills and competence for the opportunity to acquire experience and the chance to contribute to the formulation of national policy.

The program is open to highly qualified earth scientists in early or mid-career. The position will require the ability to work well with people from diverse professional backgrounds, and to be articulate and flexible in fulfilling a broad range of assignments. The fellowship carries with it a \$38,000 stipend, plus limited allowances for health insurance, travel and relocation. The program is funded by GSA and by a grant from the U.S. Geological Survey. The deadline for receiving applications for the fellowship is February 15, 1992. Procedures for application and detailed requirements are available in the geology departments of most colleges and universities in the United States, and upon request from: Executive Director, Geological Society of America, P.O. Box 9140, Boulder, Colorado 80301.

## Seminars/Meetings/Field Trips

### NOVEMBER 1991

**12-15 1991 Western States Seismic Policy Council**, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The theme of the conference is "Strategy for earthquake damage reduction in low-moderate risk states: Impact of executive order 12699 (Seismic Safety of Federal and Federally Assisted or Regulated New Building Construction). **CONTACT:** David W. Love, WSSPC Conference, New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, Socorro, NM 87801, (505) 835-5146.

### FEBRUARY 1992

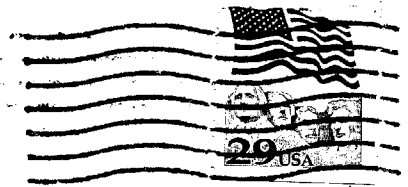
**10-14 Sixth International Symposium on Landslides**, in Christchurch, New Zealand. The symposium is co-sponsored by the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineers, and the International Association of Engineering Geologists. **CONTACT:** David H. Bell, Geology Department, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand, Phone: (64-3) 642-717 or 677-001. FAX: (64-3) 642-999.

**18-21 Earth Remote Sensing Short Course**, in Los Angeles, presented by the Department of Business, Engineering and Management of the UCLA Extension Program. **CONTACT:** For technical information: David L. Glackin at (213) 336-8735, for registration information: Short Course Program Office at (213) 825-3344.

### APRIL 1992

**29-May 1 1992 Pacific Section Convention AAPG-SEPM-SEG-EMD**, in Sacramento, California. Theme for the convention is "Creative Approaches to Environmentally Sound Exploration". **CONTACT:** Rich Boyd, General Chairman, Capitol Oil Corporation, 1545 River Park Drive, #501, Sacramento, CA 95815, (916) 929-4141.

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