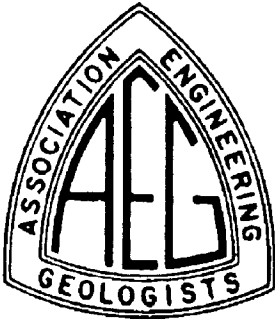


# Association of Engineering Geologists

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## Southern California Section

### NEWSLETTER-December 1992

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#### Dinner Meeting *Monday, December 7th* Joint Meeting with South Coast Geological Society

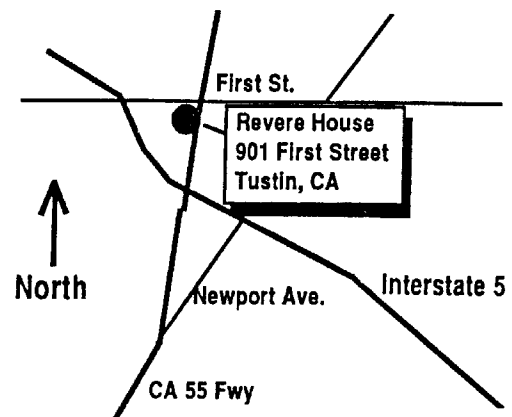
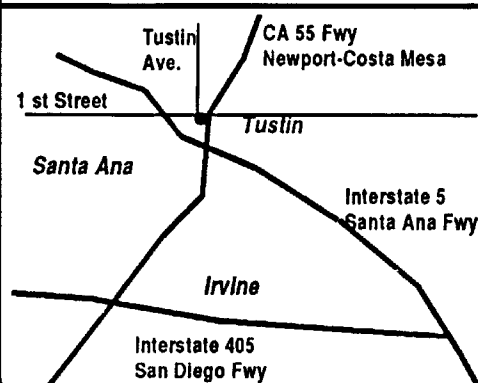
- The Revere House  
901 First Street  
Tustin, California
- Cost - \$19.00 (Full-Time Students - Free)
- Make reservations by Friday December 4th!!!**  
URS Consultants 714-660-7676  
(Leave Your Name & Number of People in Your Party)
- 6:00 Social Hour
- 7:00 Dinner
- 8:00 Program

## Program

### "Management of San Fernando Valley Water Rights and Groundwater Contamination"

by  
Melvin Blevins, Watermaster  
and Dr. John Mann

#### MAP to Meeting



## PROGRAM Topic & Speaker

### Management of San Fernando Valley Water Rights and Groundwater Contamination

Speakers: Melvin Blevins and John Mann, Upper Los Angeles River Area (ULARA)

Groundwater management planning for the San Fernando Valley Groundwater Basin started more than 80 years ago when the area was selected for temporary agricultural use of the Owens River Aqueduct water. The recharged or return water from the agricultural uses could be recaptured by the City of Los Angeles diversion facilities. During the 1930's, Owens River water was artificially recharged in spreading basins and recovered from pumping. In the State of California, water rights were litigated for 100 years before the basin adjudication became final in January 1979. However, less than one year after the water rights became final, volatile organic contaminants were discovered in large areas of the San Fernando Groundwater Basin, thus focusing the emphasis of groundwater management activities on groundwater basin rehabilitation and water quality management.

Mr. Blevins and Mr. Mann will present some of the early history that established the water rights, the legal battles that ensued, and the adjudication, as well as discussing current activities to mitigate contamination and future management of the San Fernando Valley Groundwater Basin

Melvin L. Blevins, P.E. Mr. Blevins is a Senior Waterworks Engineer with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the court-appointed Watermaster for the San Fernando Valley (referred to as the Upper Los Angeles River Area or ULARA). Mr. Blevins was appointed Watermaster in January 1979, a position which enforces and implements the court's judgement for the San Fernando Valley. Mr. Blevins has been involved in water rights issues for more than 20 years, primarily issues regarding the Mono Basin, Owens Valley, and the San Fernando Valley from which Los Angeles obtains its water supply.

Mr. Blevins' received a B.S. in Civil Engineering from California State University at San Jose and a M.S. in Civil Engineering from USC. He has taken additional graduate courses at UCLA and USC. Mr. Blevins has taught groundwater management and engineering courses at USC since January 1970. He also teaches courses at UCLA dealing with groundwater contamination. Mr. Blevins is a registered civil engineer in the State of California and is a member of the ASCE, AWWA, and the NWWA.

John F. Mann, Jr., PhD.

Dr. Mann has been involved in problems dealing with groundwater and water rights in California and other western states for more than 30 years. He has been a consultant to federal agencies, the State of California, the City of Los Angeles, and to counties, cities, water districts and private industries. He was a member of the Governor's Commission to Review California Water Rights Law. Dr. Mann has been a consultant to the ULARA Watermaster for 14 years.

Dr. Mann received his B.S. degree in geological engineering from the Colorado School of Mines and his M.S. and PhD. from USC. Dr. Mann is a registered geologist and a Certified Engineering Geologist in the State of California. He has taught groundwater courses for more than 26 years. He is a member of many professional organizations including the GSA, NWWA, AWWA, AGI, AGU, and AWWA.

## AWARDS

Two members of the Southern California Section AEG have been honored with national awards in October 1992.

Mr. Robert Hollingsworth received the Douglas R. Piteau award for outstanding young member at the 1992 annual meeting of the Association of Engineering Geologists in Long Beach, California. This award is a discretionary award given to a member 35 years old or younger who has excelled in technical accomplishment, service to the association, and service to the engineering geologic profession. We wish to congratulate Mr. Hollingsworth for this well deserved award. Mr. Hollingsworth is principal engineering geologist for the firm of Grover and Hollingsworth.

Dr. James E. Slosson was the proud recipient of the 1992 Distinguished Practice Award at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America in Cincinnati at a week-long conference in late October. The award stipulated Dr. Slosson's "early recognition of the need for increased public awareness of geologic hazards and the need for careful engineering geologic studies of hazardous areas". It cited his original and meticulous studies of some of the most controversial hazardous areas in the nation. It further stated "His career exemplifies the need to keep abreast of academic research and to meld the results with the need for field solutions of engineering geology problems".

Dr. Slosson is Chief Engineering Geologist for the firm of Slosson and Associates. He presently serves as a member of the California Seismic Safety Commission which is involved in developing improved codes and regulations as well as the collection and dispensing of earthquake information to the management of state and local agencies.

## Chairman's Column

I hope you continue to have success in signing up new members for our Association. We need them now, and now is the best time of year to get new people involved. This can be related to a new-year's-resolution or a job performance goal. Some hesitant prospective members may provide the excuse that they are not practicing as an "engineering geologist" or have a license as an engineering geologist to qualify as a member. However, you can counter with the explanation that the definition of an engineering geologist is simply one who applies an understanding of geologic processes and conditions to engineering problems. After a bit more of your elaboration on the goals and benefits of membership in AEG many people will probably say "Oh," and then "OK, sign me up." On the other hand you may have to also explain that AEG was started in Sacramento, in 1957, by 12 respected engineering geologists, more than half of whom were working in the water resources field and for public agencies. Therein is the heart of AEG's subtitle "*Serving Professionals in Engineering, Environmental and Groundwater Geology Since 1957.*" We need more new members and only you can help LET'S DO IT! If you need membership forms, both Tony Stirbys or myself will immediately dispatch them to you or your prospective member. Feel free to give us a call.

We will all look forward to meeting your friends and associates as new members at our local meetings and participating in our upcoming activities. Some of the activities include new short courses and field trips.

An ambitious short course program is currently being developed to increase the professional development aspects of our section and to allow participants to obtain continuing education credits. It is in our best interests to have continuing education as part of our professional license to practice engineering, environmental and groundwater geology in California. Our affiliation with International Association for Continuing Education and Training allows us some leeway in developing and presenting professional short courses and in providing related continuing education credits. For example, the California Div. of Mines & Geology (CDMG), in conjunction with our section, will hold a short course related to preparation and review of engineering geology reports for hospital sites. This course is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, February 27th. Apparently the CDMG feels that there are guidelines in conducting this work that are not well understood by practicing engineering geologists. If anyone is interested in other subjects that may be developed as short courses please speak to one of us section officers.

The special Landers field trip, held at the end of the annual meeting, taxed the newly appointed field trip chairman, Dave Ebersold, and other geologists studying the Landers area to come up with an appropriate guide to explore the related earthquake damage. Copies of this field trip guidebook are available through our publications chairman, Joe Cota. Get a copy for yourself and follow the trip guide before winter storms erode the earthquake damage.

Ideas for new field trips are also welcome for sponsorship and organization by AEG. For example, during January or February a field trip is being planned to look at the engineering geology aspects of the "Seven Oaks Dam" project. This project is part of the ongoing Santa Ana River flood control program operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles office. It involves the present construction of a 500+ feet high dam in the San Bernardino Mountains near the intersection of the San Andreas Fault and the Santa Ana River, northeast of Redlands. This should be the tallest dam in southern California. The next newsletter will let you know the date for this field trip. If you have ideas for other field trips in the Southern California area let an officer know and perhaps we can put it in our schedule.

One of my current and long-term goals for our section is to maintain as complete as possible a photographic directory of members and associate members. Many of you know that earlier this year I started the computerized directory with a collection of 60 photos left by Don Lamar, former chairman of our section. Don wanted a detailed photo directory, similar to one done by ASCE. A total of 100 additional photos were submitted by members or taken by me at our monthly meetings. A total of 160 out of 400 photos of members seems inadequate to produce a viable photo directory. It was evidently optimistic for me to assume that members would be as interested as myself in this directory.

My goal to produce a quality photo directory for distribution to the membership will be done when there are 40 more photos for a total of 200 in the collection. Feel free to send a photo of yourself if you have one or call me to find out if I have one of you. Alternatively you can simply ask me to take a photo of you at one of our meetings. I always bring my camera for such a request. The photo will be scanned as an image into my computer database and the real photo stored in my files as a backup. If you want the photo back just let me know. The quality of the scanned image is dependent upon the size of the photo and its composition. For example, an ideal photo for the directory shows the head and shoulders of a person covering an area of a few square inches and should have a contrasting light background. The head and shoulders of the person is the only information that will be stored in the database. A typical scanned image in the directory takes up about 30,000 bytes, so editing the image to a sufficient size is important. The current photo directory takes up about 5 million bytes.

The primary purpose of the photo directory is to encourage people through face-name recognition to more easily get to know one another through participation at our monthly meetings or through business or other social activities. To preserve a measure of privacy only the edited photo and the name of the member will be shown in the directory. The photo directory is another benefit of membership that may convince new people to join AEG. If you are shy about your photo being in the directory perhaps new members you recruit may not be. Get them to join and submit their photo to me. Once there are over 200 (40 more) photos collected I will get it published for distribution.



*Have a great holiday season.*



## BOOK SALE

### Association of Engineering Geologists, Southern California Section

- Blake, T., and Larson, R.A., Eds., 1991, Engineering Geology along the Simi-Santa Rosa fault system and adjacent areas. Simi Valley to Camarillo, Ventura County, California: Guidebook for the Southern California Section of the Association of Engineering Geologists Annual Field Trip, August 24, 1991, Volumes 1 and 2, 383 pgs., 4 map sheets. \$40.00
- Buckley, C.I., and Larson, R.A., Eds., 1990, Geology and Engineering Geology of the western Soledad Basin, Los Angeles County, California: Guidebook for the Southern California Section of the Association of Engineering Geologists Annual Field Trip, November 3, 1990, 185 pgs., 2 map sheets. \$25.00
- Buesch, D., Ed., 1979, Geomorphic Applications in Engineering Geology: A State-of-the-Art Short Course: Short course held at California State University at Los Angeles, November 10-11, 1979, reprinted by the Southern California Section of the Association of Engineering Geologists, 145 pgs. \$11.00
- Byer, J.W., Ed., 1975, Sycamore Canyon Fault, Verdugo Fault, York Boulevard Fault, Raymond Fault, and Sierra Madre Fault Zone: Guidebook for the Southern California Section of the Association of Engineering Geologists Annual Field Trip, September 27, 1975, 68 pgs. \$ 8.00
- City of Los Angeles, 1982, Geologic Maps of the Santa Monica Mountains, Los Angeles, California: 333 map sheets at 1" = 400', compiled by the Bureau of Engineering, Department of Public Works, City of Los Angeles, reprinted by the Southern California Section of the Association of Engineering Geologists, 342 pgs. \$26.00

#### 1992 NEW ADDITIONS

- Sieh, K.E. and Matti, J.C., October 3-4, 1992, Earthquake Geology San Andreas Fault System Palm Springs to Palmdale, 35th Annual AEG Meeting, Guidebook and Reprint Volume. \$25.00
- Ehlig, P.L. and Steiner, E.A. Editors, October 2-9, 1992, Engineering Geology field Trips: Orange County, Santa Monica Mountains and Malibu. 35th Annual AEG Meeting, \$25.00 \*\*Optional Map and Cross Section of Big Rock Mesa \$15.00
- Bulleting of the Association of Engineering Geology, Volume XX, Number 1. Contains "Geology of Long Beach, California". Limited Supply \$5.00
- Ebersold, D.B. Editor, October 10, 1992, Landers Earthquake of June 28, 1992, San Bernardino County, California Field Trip Guide. Limited Supply \$8.00
- Stout, M. L., Editor, 1992, Association of Engineering Geologists. Proceedings for the 35th Annual Meeting, October 2-9, 1992, Los Angeles, California. \$40.00
- Shurman, G. and Slosson, James, 1992, Forensic Engineering. Environmental Case Histories for Civil Engineers and Geologists. Academic Press, Inc. \$49.95
- Pipkin, B.W. and Proctor, R.J., Editors, 1992, Engineering Geology Practice in Southern California. Star Publishing \$79.95 plus a special charge of \$5.00 shipping and handling.

**Books are available from:** Joe Cota, Publications Chairman, AEG Southern California Section, c/o GeoSoils, Inc., 6634 Valjean Avenue, Van Nuys, California 91406, (818) 785-2158. Make checks payable to AEG Southern California Section. **Please add 8.25% sales tax and the following postage/handling charges:** \$2.50 for the first book and \$0.50 for each additional book.



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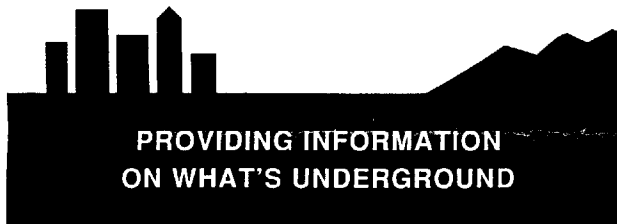
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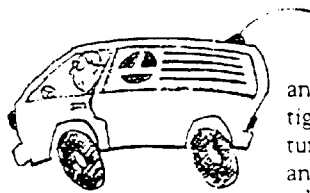
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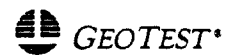
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## Seminars/Meetings/Field Trips

### DECEMBER 1992

7 **Joint Meeting Southern California Section AEG/South Coast Geologic Society.** Revere House, Santa Ana, California. CONTACT URS (714) 660-7676  
7-11 **American Geophysical Union, Fall Meeting,** San Francisco, California.

### JANUARY 1992

12 **AEG Southern California Section Meeting,** Quiet Cannon, Montebello. CONTACT URS (174) 660-7676

### FEBRUARY 1992

8-11 **Ninth Thematic Conference - Geologic Remote Sensing,** Exploration, Environment, and Engineering, Pasadena, California. CONTACT (313) 994-1200 ext. 3234

## Ninth Thematic Conference/Geologic Remote Sensing

**Exploration, Environment, and Engineering**  
8-11 February 1993 Pasadena, California, USA

### Technical Program

The conference theme is geologic remote sensing, with special emphasis on mineral and hydrocarbon exploration, and environmental and engineering applications. The industry-oriented technical program will include more than 300 plenary and interactive poster presentations by experts from more than 30 countries. Papers will address all aspects of geologic remote sensing - from fundamental principles and techniques to advanced data processing and geological interpretation. Specific topics will include:

Active faults and Geological Hazards

Energy and mineral exploration

Image Processing and Rectification

Petroleum Exploration

Spectral Geology and Geobotany

Data Integration and Desktop Remote Sensing

Environmental Applications

Marine and Engineering Application

Sensor Technologies

Structural and Stratigraphic Analyses

### Special Programs

There are also six hands-on workshops, three field trips, exhibits program, student program, employment referral service, and a social and guest program. For more information contact Nancy J. Wallman (313) 994-1200 ext. 3234

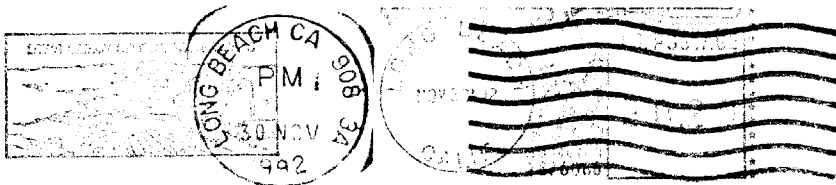
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