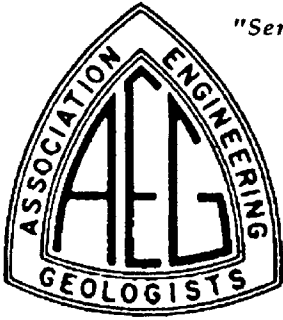


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Southern California Section

NEWSLETTER - August 1997

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Deadline for submittals to the
September Newsletter:
August 26th

Next Meeting: ASCE-SDS?
Possible in Carlsbad Area

Dinner Meeting Tuesday August 12th

- Stevens Steak House
5332 Stevens Place
City of Commerce
- Cost - \$20.00
(\$10.00 for full-time students with valid I.D.)
- For reservations call Pat Stewart at Montgomery Watson
at (818) 568-6161 by Friday August 8th

Make reservations by Noon on the Friday before the Meeting

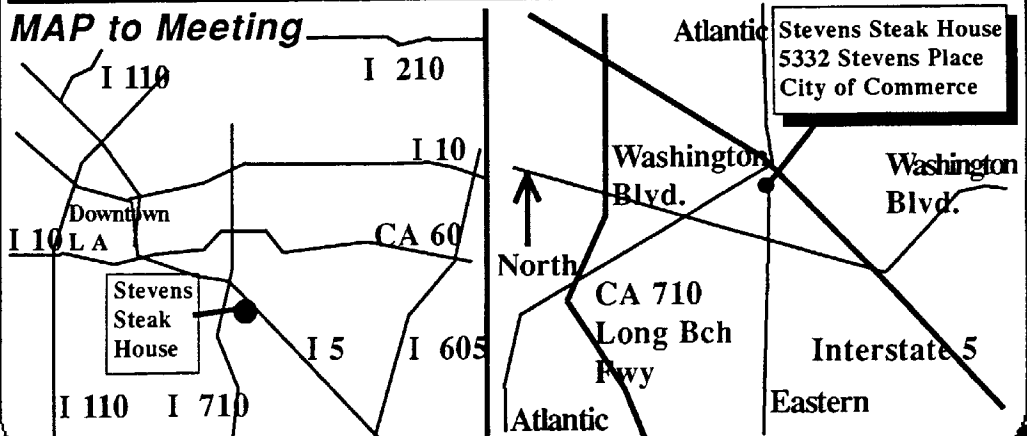
- 5:30 Social Hour & One-Half
- 7:00 Dinner
- 7:30 Announcements
- 7:45 Program

Program

TOPIC The Soils Consultant in This Litigious
World - Do's and Don'ts to Avoid
Professional Negligence

SPEAKER **John H. Ernster, Esq.**
Principal and Lead Trial Attorney
Law Offices of John H. Ernster

MAP to Meeting



Program Topic & Speaker

The Soils Consultant in this Litigious World - Do's and Don'ts to Avoid Professional Negligence

John H. Ernster, Esq.
Principal & Lead Trial Attorney -
Law Offices of John H. Ernster
Pasadena, California

Mr. Ernster's firm practices civil litigation and corporate counseling. Mr. Ernster specializes in the trial of complex business cases, construction related cases, transportation matters and personal injury litigation. Many cases are sent to Mr. Ernster's office shortly before trial because settlement is not possible and the case will be tried.

Mr. John Ernster has over 23 years of trial experience. Prior to starting his own practice, Mr. Ernster was employed by the Santa Fe Railway Company in its California Law Department. Mr. Ernster rose through the various levels in the Law Department and was General Counsel from 1983 through 1989. Mr. Ernster elected to start his own firm specializing in civil trial practice.

Mr. Ernster is a graduate of UC Berkeley and of Loyola University School of Law. He was admitted into practice in California in 1974. He is also admitted to practice before the Federal District Courts for California as well as the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and the Federal Court of Appeals which handles patent and trademark and copyright appeals. He has been admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1977.

THIS MONTH

August 1997 *Kelly E. Rowe
Hydrogeologist*



This month the newsletter is late. Sorry. Speakers are dropping out of sight left and right. If you know someone that has something interesting and practical to share at our monthly meetings be sure you contact the vice chairman, Thom Slosson (818-376-6540). He will be pleased to hear from you. Thom persuaded John H. Ernster, esquire, to speak to us about his experience with trials about professional negligence. As he worked much of his career for the Santa Fe Railway Co. in Southern California I am sure he has seen many major geotechnical and environmental issues that developed due to negligence. Rail lines run through areas with difficult soil and slope conditions, and all seem to pass through every designated Superfund-type of contamination sites.

This month we plan to have the formal switch of officer positions. Although Dave and Thom are not switching. The intent of switching positions during August is to allow the incoming section chairman two months to become acquainted with the issues that are planned to be brought up at the annual AEG meeting in October. Hopefully the outgoing chairman lets the incoming chairman know what these issues are. Most of the other section chairs fulfill two-year positions. We are probably the only section, with 15 percent of the AEG population, to have enough volunteers to do the shorter commitment. Did I just write we have enough volunteers? Forget that. We can always use more volunteers. Feel free to contact the officers listed on the front of the newsletter if you are interested in being an active participant rather than a passive observer.

Last month the joint meeting with SDAG was a success. Michael Palmer, from Hargis + Associates in LaJolla, described the work done at the former DDT manufacturing plant in Torrance. I looked up DDT as 1,1-(2,2,2-Trichloroethylidene)bis[4-chlorobenzene] or 1,1,1-trichloro-2,2-bis(p-chlorophenyl)ethane, commonly known as dichlorodiphenyl-trichloroethane. There were a lot of different mixtures of other chemicals at this facility, but the focus of the work was to evaluate the areal and vertical extent and remediation alternatives for chlorobenzene. The most effective remediation technique they used was a dual pump and treat system - lower the groundwater level with a shallow pump to hydraulically draw the chlorobenzene, DDT, etc. to fill the bottom of the well and also use a bottom pump.

Another issue that was raised was to need to evaluate the hydrogeology carefully. For example, the shallow contaminated groundwater had a hydraulic gradient that did not follow the regional hydraulic gradient evident in the deeper aquifers. It was toward the northeast rather than the southeast. I found this also occurred at the Golden Eagle Refinery site, located about one mile northeast of Hargis' site. Fortunately for the coastal plain area there is often a clay & silt cap about 50 feet thick that minimizes the spread of contamination from the many industrial sites to the potable groundwater supplies.

Last month's newsletter was rather thick due to the anti-PECG Initiative call for help and description of the PECG Initiative. I hope you had an opportunity to read the fine print. If not feel free to check out the CELSOC (Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyors of California) Internet site: CELSOC.ORG. The PECG (aka Competition Killer) Initiative is still

Continued from Page 2

Next month we may have a joint meeting with the San Diego Section of the Geotechnical Division of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). It was suggested that Mr. Hunt, of the "classic" Geotechnical Investigations Manuals fame, would be shipped out here from the east coast and provide a talk. I for one think this will be an excellent meeting. Mr. Hunt's books are excellent, with many great reference tables, figures and pictures. I am sure he has many great stories to tell. We will let you know if it is a go for next month or the following month. See you there.

Chairman's Column

I hope that you had a chance to see at least part of Cadillac Desert which aired on PBS in four episodes over the past few weeks. This series is based on the well-know book and chronicles the importation of water into the arid west, particularly southern California. The first segment dealt with the Owens Valley Aqueduct, the second with the damming of the Colorado River, the third with the Central Valley Project, and the fourth with more global water resources problems in areas such as Mexico City and Israel. Being deeply involved with water resources in southern California, and also having worked in Mexico City, I found the series fascinating. It is humbling to realize that for all that we have built, altered and perhaps enhanced, depending on your point of view, none of it would exist without water. And in fact, very very few of us would inhabit this region were it not for water. But let us not forget that this water comes to us at an extreme cost with regard to our environment. Prior to diversions of water to Los Angeles, the Owens Valley was a vibrant agricultural region with rich ecological diversity - now it is merely a desert. The Central Valley hosted Tulare Lake which supported millions of waterfowl - now the lake is dry and occupied by farmland. The Colorado River incised itself into the Colorado Plateau, creating magnificent canyons which played host to unique ecosystems - now this all lies at the bottom of hundreds of thousands of acre-feet of water. And yet that water sustains life for us as we know it today.

Sadly, now that we have the water, we don't seem to be able to keep it clean. Recent data suggest that water from the Colorado River which is imported to southern California contains perhaps 7 or 8 parts per billion of perchlorate, the latest in a series of chemicals to rear its ugly head in our drinking water supply. Perchlorate is a rocket fuel oxidant and has also been detected in groundwater beneath portions of the San Gabriel Valley, Bunker Hill Basin, and Sacramento area to name a few. Like chlorinated hydrocarbons which were the topic of last month's joint meeting with SDAG, it's movement is difficult predict and requires a thorough understanding of the hydrogeologic conditions which control its migration. Like MTBE, a motor fuel oxygenate now in wide-spread use, it is very difficult to remove. And once again the geologists are called in to action as part of multidisciplinary solution to a complex problem.

This morning as I was driving in to work, I marveled in all that geologists do. It is not just water quality and water resources, hydrogeology, contaminant remediation and the like. For instance, my drive began in Granada Hills, an area badly damaged by the Northridge earthquake. Soon I was driving through areas of surface fault rupture from the 1971 San Fernando earthquake. Off to my left was Hansen Dam. This dam, located on the Big Tujunga Wash, provides flood control protection to much of the San Fernando Valley in addition to an important local source of



sand, gravel, rock, and cement as the area behind the dam is being cleared of debris. The freeway then curved upward in to the Verdugo Mountains. Building the freeway required the construction of numerous large cut and fill slopes and assessment and analysis by engineering geologists. Then dropping in to the La Crecenta Valley, I passed through the community of La Canada. On days when the sun and fog are in perfect cooperation, the sun rising in the east illuminates the fog in the La Crecenta Valley, projecting a beam of light not unlike that from a slide projector into the northeast San Fernando Valley. That notwithstanding, La Canada is a largely hillside community which relies almost entirely on septic tanks and percolation in to the ground for sewage disposal. At the eastern edge of La Canada lies the Arroyo Seco and the Devils Gate Dam. This dam is currently undergoing major spillway modifications. And deep beneath the dam flows the groundwater, having become nitrate-laden from sewage disposal, in to the Raymond Basin. Providing a major source of drinking water to Pasadena and surrounding areas, the Raymond Basin is bounded at its southern end by the Raymond fault, another of our many active faults throughout the region.

It is from morning drives like this that I marvel at geology, at all that geologists do, and at the contributions which we make as part of our normal every-day course of business, to the betterment of the public's health, safety, and welfare.

COGO Stuff...

Hello, CCGO'ers. You'll see from these minutes that we accomplished a great deal at our most recent meeting. We hope you'll join us at our next. Your geoscience organization now has a terrific opportunity to influence the detailed direction of CCGO and therefore the potential importance of geoscience in public policy making in California! We hope you'll attend our next meeting, on Saturday, August 9, 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM, in San Jose. Details will be sent in a couple of weeks.
MINUTES OF JUNE 22, 1997, CCGO ORGANIZING MEETING

(Held at Dave Bieber's office in Rancho Cordova, 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM)

I. INTRODUCTIONS OF ATTENDEES:

Dave Bieber (Chairman, Sacramento Section, AEG)
Jim Parsons (Sacramento Section, AEG) (arrived late)
Betsy Mathieson (Chairman, San Francisco Section, AEG)
Vicki Kretzinger (Past President, GRA)
Brian Lewis (Vice President, GRA)
Jim Jacobs (President, SF Branch, GRA; President, Calif. Section, AIPG)
Jane Gill (President, SF Bay Area Chapter, AWG)
Tridib Guha (President, Northern California Geological Society)
Dave Dawdy (California Chapter, AIH)

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 5/4/97 MEETING

Approved.

Discussion of CCGO Goals (follow-up from March and May meetings):
Agreed CCGO should have broad-based goals, one of which should be maintaining registration for geologists, perhaps with some modifications such as changing requirements for taking geologists' registration exam.
III. DISCUSSION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Tabled because potential volunteer executive director was not present (and - late news - will be out of the state until November according to Jim Jacobs).

IV. REVIEW OF TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Report of Bill Keese's comments - Bylaws Committee: Conversations with Mr. Keese did not yield expected assistance with incorporation matters, so we will proceed on our own.
(see "Introduction and Distribution of Draft Strategic Plan" for revised tentative schedule)

V. INCORPORATION MATTERS (Bylaws Committee - Dave Bieber, Chairman)

Review of Draft Articles of Incorporation Betsy distributed draft Articles of Incorporation. Need to clarify terminology for 501(c)6 organization and

determine what, if any, limitations on corporate activities need to be specified in Articles. Betsy will finalize CCGO Articles of Incorporation using GRA Articles as a model (Brian will fax copies to Betsy and Dave B.). Betsy will distribute new Articles with a note saying we plan to adopt them at our next meeting, so each organization should send a representative to sign Articles as an Incorporator. Brian and Vicki want to be sure signing as Incorporators won't commit GRA to contributing money to CCGO.

{Discussed insurance. Brian says "Directors' and Officers' Insurance" protects directors and officers against lawsuits by other members alleging they're not implementing articles of incorporation and bylaws. A more effective way to accomplish that protection is to be sure bylaws indemnify directors and officers. "Fiduciary Insurance" protects the assets of a corporation. GSA didn't buy fiduciary insurance. Instead, they require two signatures on every check over \$1,000. GRA did buy D & O insurance (about \$1,500) and General Liability Insurance (about \$2,000). Need final Articles and Bylaws to get quotes. Question about whether general liability insurance, with rates per person, might be based on the number of individual members of all CCGO member organizations.)

Approval of Bylaws
(Took place at end of meeting.)

Dave Bieber distributed latest draft of bylaws. Each person read the bylaws, then we discussed each article, made revisions, and adopted and signed the bylaws as amended, with a provision for future typographic and format changes. Each attendee took away a copy of the approved bylaws and will advise Dave B. of any such refinements needed. (Brian had to leave during the review, but Vicki presented his comments.)

Our review of the bylaws included a discussion of whether organizations with separate sections or chapters will hold a single membership or one membership per section or chapter. Agreed to let individual organizations decide, but CCGO will have more clout if it represents a large number of groups.

Resolution to Incorporate
Deferred until next meeting.

Procedures for Filing for Tax Exempt Status Betsy will research or will delegate to someone who's volunteered to help with action items. Need to submit \$800 filing fee to Franchise Tax Board when apply for incorporation. Fee will be returned if CCGO is confirmed to be eligible for tax-exempt status. Representatives of member organizations tentatively made the following commitments for loans:

Jim Jacobs	GRA-SF	\$100
	AIPG-CA	\$100
Dave Bieber	AEG-Sac	\$200
Betsy Mathieson	AEG-SF	\$200
Brian Lewis	GRA (will notify Dave Bieber)	

VI. INTRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN (Strategic Planning Committee — Jim Jacobs, Chairman)

Jim Jacobs and Russ Pfeil prepared a draft strategic plan and distributed it via e-mail before the meeting. Results of review at meeting:

Mission Statement: Decided to retain original version: "The California Council of Geoscience Organizations advocates the use of sound geologic knowledge and practice by proposing, reviewing, and monitoring statutes, regulations, and public policies."

Vision Statement: Fine (same as original): "The Council will be a leader of recognized integrity in advancing programs and legislation that take into consideration California's diverse geologic conditions, advocate knowledgeable use of resources, and work to reduce the impact of geologic hazards."

Strategic Intent: Will include first two paragraphs of "Functional Concerns" (from March 23 meeting) as "Introduction" to strategic plan: "The California Council of Geoscience Organizations works for the sound practice of the geologic sciences in the public interest. The council works to provide balanced information to lawmakers, regulatory agencies, and the public regarding the economic, environmental, and human costs associated with geologic matters. CCGO evaluates and comments on regulatory and legislative proposals that relate to geologic hazards, the use of geologic resources, or that impact the practice of earth scientists. When necessary to accomplish its mission, CCGO will develop, evaluate and recommend policies that advocate knowledgeable use of resources, and work to reduce the impact of geologic hazards.

"The Council believes that achieving its goals requires an approach that combines the expertise, understanding, and dedication to the public good of earth scientists, land-use planners, engineers, architects, regulators,

code administrators, and lawmakers."

Developed the following "Strategic Intent" by comparing March 23 Functional Concerns with newly drafted strategic intents:

"Proposed Legislation: Track proposed legislation and provide balanced information to lawmakers, regulatory agencies, and the public regarding the application of sound geologic principles in the arena of economic, environmental, and human impact issues.

"Existing Legislation: Evaluate existing legislation and provide balanced information to lawmakers, regulatory agencies, and the public regarding the application of sound geologic principles in the arena of economic, environmental, and human impact issues.

"Regulatory Peer Review: Evaluate the efficiency, fairness, and effectiveness of the present regulatory peer review process and develop and promote recommendations for improving the system.

"Governmental Relations: Identify, establish good working relationships with, and seek cooperation with appropriate public entities.

"Professional Practice: Work to improve the professional practice of geoscience in the state of California.

"Public Outreach: Publicize the role of geosciences and earth scientists in public health, safety, and economic prosperity of the state of California."

Moving Forward:

1. Ask member organizations to advertise for a volunteer Executive Director to help get CCGO up and running. The intent will be to transition that person into a paid position.
2. At CCGO's next organizing meeting, committees will begin brainstorming methods to implement each strategic intent. For example, representatives particularly interested in licensure (registration) can work on the Professional Practice committee.
3. Prioritize order of implementation.
4. Establish goals and timetables.

VII. REPORT ON STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN (Development Planning Subcommittee)

No report given.

VIII. OTHER TOPICS

Jane Gill will invite Senator Dianne Feinstein to speak at first big meeting, in November. Will be similar in format to last year's GRA/AIPG/AEG/AWG/etc. meeting in Berkeley, at which Dr. John Cherry spoke.

IX. DESIGNATION OF PERSON TO WRITE PRESS RELEASE ON TODAY'S PROCEEDINGS

Jane agreed to draft a press release and to work with Betsy Mathieson on finalizing it.

X. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

Betsy will finalize CCGO Articles of Incorporation using GRA Articles as a model (Brian will fax copies to Betsy and Dave B. - done). Betsy will distribute new Articles to contact list.

Each attendee will advise Dave B. of any typos or format glitches in the Bylaws.

Betsy will research procedures for applying for tax-exempt status (or will delegate task).

Attendees will confirm commitments for loans to be used for \$800 filing fee and will notify Dave Bieber.

Betsy will ask member organizations to advertise for a volunteer Executive Director to help get CCGO up and running.

Jane will invite Senator Dianne Feinstein to speak at first big meeting, in November (done).

Jane agreed to draft a press release and to work with Betsy Mathieson on finalizing it.

XI. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

Saturday, August 9, 1997, in San Jose. Betsy Mathieson will host meeting at her home or office, each of which is 10 minutes from San Jose Interna-

tional Airport.

Prepared July 9, 1997, by:

Betsy Mathieson
CCGO Communications Volunteer
Chairman, Association of Engineering Geologists San Francisco Section
c/o Terratech, Inc.
1365 Vander Way
San Jose, CA 95112
408-297-6969
fax 408-297-7716
BMathieson@aol.com

**ANNOUNCEMENT AND AGENDA -
August 9, 1997, CCGO MEETING**

This month's organizing meeting of the California Council of Geoscience Organizations will be held in San Jose on Saturday, August 9. We hope you'll join us in adopting the Articles of Incorporation and refining CCGO's strategic plan. CCGO wants to be your organization's voice in Sacramento!

Meeting Date: Saturday, August 9, 1997

Time: 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Place: Betsy Mathieson's house
197 South 13th Street
San Jose
408-293-5852

Directions: From I-280 northbound or southbound, take the 11th Street exit.

Proceed north on 11th Street six stoplights.
Turn right on San Antonio Street (the sixth light).
Go 2 blocks east to 13th Street.

House is on the northwest corner of 13th and San Antonio Streets: 1-story, gray, with a white picket fence.

Parking: On street. Parking restrictions are not in effect on weekends.

Airport Transportation: Can be arranged. Meeting location is 15 minutes from San Jose International Airport. Let me know your flight info by August 7, and someone will meet you at the curb outside baggage claim and return you to the airport after the meeting.

Lunch: Potluck. What's your specialty? Please let me know what you'd like to bring by August 7. Fly-ins are exempt from bringing food! RSVP to me (BMathieson@aol.com; 408-297-6969) by August 7.

DRAFT AGENDA

- I. Introductions
- II. Approval of Minutes of 6/22/97 Meeting
- III. Incorporation Matters

Approval of Articles of Incorporation (to be distributed by August 7)

Resolution to Incorporate (by Incorporating Board of Directors willing attendees at meeting)

Procedures for filing for tax exempt status

Confirmation of loans from organizations (for refundable \$800 Franchise Tax Board fee)

IV. Strategic Plan Refinement

Meet in small groups to develop the next, more detailed, elements for each of the following Strategic Intent:

"Proposed Legislation: Track proposed legislation and provide balanced information to lawmakers, regulatory agencies, and the public regarding the application of sound geologic principles in the arena of economic, environmental, and human impact issues.

"Existing Legislation: Evaluate existing legislation and provide balanced information to lawmakers, regulatory agencies, and the public regarding the application of sound geologic principles in the arena of economic, environmental, and human impact issues.

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"Professional Practice: Work to improve the professional practice of geoscience in the state of California.

"Public Outreach: Publicize the role of geosciences and earth scientists in public health, safety, and economic prosperity of the state of California."

Prioritize order of implementation.

Establish goals and timetables.

V. Report on Status of Development Plan (Development Planning Subcommittee — Dave Ebersold, Chairman)

VI. Other Topics

VII. Designation of person to write press release on today's proceedings

VIII. Review of Action Items

IX. Scheduling of Next Meeting (do we have a volunteer to host a Southern California meeting?)

We hope to see you or a representative of your organization in San Jose next Saturday! Come early or stay late and take in the San Jose Jazz Festival (www.sanjosejazz.org).

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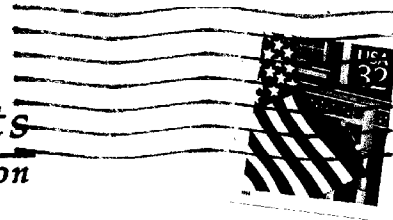
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