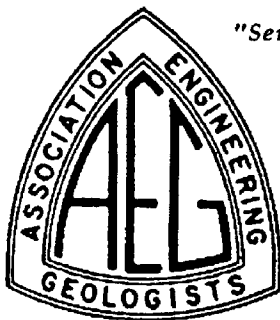


Association of Engineering Geologists

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Southern California Section

NEWSLETTER - February 1997

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Deadline for submittals to the
March Newsletter:
February 28th

Next Meeting March 19th
AEG & ASCE Joint Meeting (Weds)

Dinner Meeting Tuesday February 11th

- 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 February 7th

Make reservations by Noon on the Friday before the Meeting

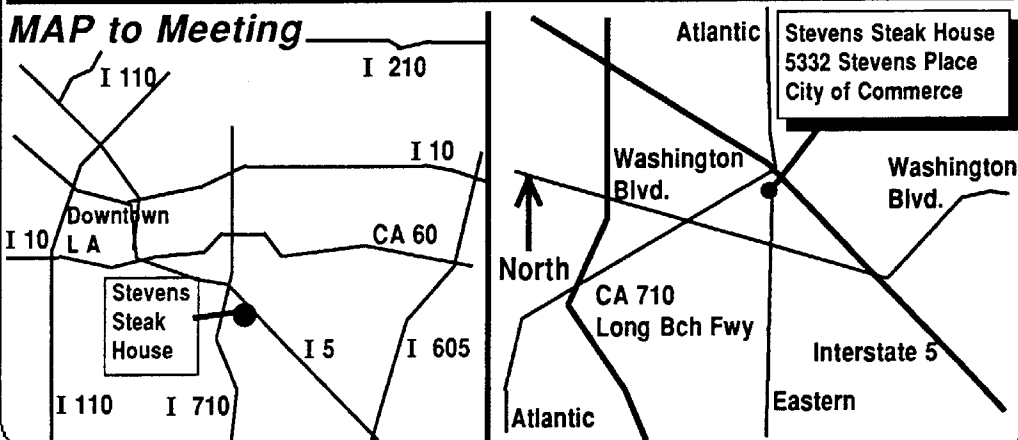
- 5:30 Social Hour & One-Half
- 7:00 Dinner
- 7:30 Announcements
- 7:45 Program

Program

TOPIC Steel Wire Rope Safety Net
Systems for Protection Against
Rockfalls and Debris Flows

SPEAKER Mr. Erik J. Rorem, Western Regional Manager
Brugg Cable Products, Inc.
Vancouver, Washington

MAP to Meeting



Next Meeting March 19th
AEG & ASCE Joint Meeting (Weds)

Program Topic & Speaker

Steel Wire Rope Safety Net Systems for Protection Against Rockfalls & Debris Flows

Mr. Erik Rorem, Regional Manager
Brugg Cable Products, Inc., Vancouver, Washington

Rockfalls and debris flows occur naturally in the wilderness due to erosion and by animal activities and growth of vegetation. Rockfall and debris flow occurrences appear to be increasing as we expand our activities in undeveloped areas for roads, houses, and utility and recreational facilities. This results in more dangerous areas with higher risks to lives and properties, and a need for more protective measures.

Steel wire rope net systems, as barriers or slope draping, can be effectively used to control rockfall, debris flow, and unstable rock slopes. Rigid-type barrier systems are typically higher in cost and offer less flexibility compared to wire rope netting systems which can dissipate kinetic energy, and provide high strength and low maintenance.

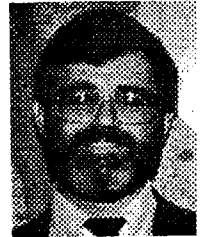
Brugg Cable Products has provided these protective systems for 50 years. The history and design considerations for these systems will be presented along with an emphasis on testing and implementation. A short Caltrans video will be available showing testing methodologies. Examples of wire rope net systems installed in the western U.S. will be presented showing how these systems work and how they may be best applied to protect the public from rockfalls and debris flows.

Mr. Erik Rorem, is the regional manager for Brugg Cable Products, Inc., in Vancouver, Washington. He has a B.S. in Geology from the U. of Minnesota and a M.B.A. from the U. of Nevada, Reno. He has 13 years of experience related to mining operations in the western U.S.

THIS MONTH

January 1997

Kelly E. Rowe
Hydrogeologist



This month the western regional manager of Brugg Cable Products will present a slide show on several projects in the western U.S. where slope wire netting was applied. Mr. Rorem has already provided his presentation at meetings for the northern California AEG sections. I understand they grilled him on how his products may be applied to the debris flows they commonly find up there. I suppose the rains over the last month have really started many more rockfalls and debris flows than they normally have to deal with up there.

Boy am I tired of the rain we had last month. I can't walk through my local park without stepping through major puddles nor can I cut my lawn. Wait that is kind of a benefit. The least the rain could do is to leave the weekends alone. I note the mosquitoes, frogs and ducks in my neighborhood love this weather we have been having. And February is normally the rainiest month...

Last month Tom Heaton, CalTech engineering seismology professor, discussed the hazards associated with tall buildings and large earthquakes. This was timely as the results of the investigations following the Northridge Earthquake indicate that many of the welds holding the tall buildings together may break, separating the columns and beams. We have all heard people say that such and such a steel-frame and glass tall building can handle a magnitude 8 or 9 earthquake. Right. Tom Heaton pointed out that we have not experienced a really large earthquake in Southern California to adequately compare what will happen to our buildings. Chile over the last ten years had an earthquake over 8 and in the U.S. the Seattle area has a very good chance to get an earthquake over 8 beneath the Olympic Peninsula, due to the local subduction plate. The Puget Sound area is certainly a very geologically interesting area with active volcanoes and active plates.

The schematic example Tom provided showed the velocity of the ground during an earthquake has an significant bearing on the strength of a building as the energy is propagated up and down the building. If the beams separate from the columns, watch out. Ever stand a pencil on its end? A couple of degrees from vertical and it falls over. I'm glad I don't work in a high-rise building. Good luck to those of you that do.

The earthquake retrofitting going on for numerous buildings and bridges throughout California is beginning to make more sense. Tom Heaton noted the structural engineers found out from recent earthquakes that the steel reinforced concrete columns supporting structures; 1) break and spall off concrete surrounding the steel elements with 2) the steel having no concrete compressive strength

Continued from page 2

ing like wet spaghetti and 3) totaling the structure. Retrofits usually involve putting steel rings around the reinforced concrete columns and coating the rings with concrete, making fatter, stronger columns.

I apologize to the "older" professionals who support continuing education requirements for maintaining licenses for geologists. Last month I reported that "most of the older professionals present (at the December meeting discussing this issue) voted no..." Frank Denison sent me an e-mail message saying he was an older professional and was continuing to take classes to improve himself and enjoy learning new things. Compared to Frank I guess I am an "older" professional myself. However, I sure don't feel old.

At the January meeting Buzz Spellman reported that the Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists does not plan to have continuing education requirements for professionals in revisions to the Geology Board Act. He said he will provide details about this decision following the latest Board meeting discussing this issue.

Woody Higdon is prepared to present his short course in April for our section on Geotechnical Photography and Geographic Information Systems: From Shooting to Digital Use. It is a two-day short course on April 19th and 20th between 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the great meeting facilities of the Irvine Ranch Water District. This should be a great class. What a deal at \$95/person registered before April 9th. See the registration form included as page 5 in this newsletter for further information. Contact Sue Tanges, AEG Southern California Section - Short Course Coordinator, at 619-442-8022.

The American Society of Civil Engineer (ASCE) Los Angeles Section Forensic Engineering Technical Group is presenting its second annual seminar/workshop on, "The Engineer as an Expert Witness", on May 9th. It will be held at U.C. Irvine. For more information contact Steve Kent 714-224-3088.

Bob Tepel, former AEG president and AEG San Francisco Section member, has a long-term goal in promoting the licensing of and higher professional profile of geologists in our state and other states. He has recently been interested in founding an organization in California that can more effectively politically represent the thousands of professional geologists in our state. Bob along with current officers of several geology groups in California have agreed to discuss the formation of the "California Council of Geotechnical Organizations" (CCGO). The primary goal of the CCGO is to represent the geologists of the state and to facilitate positive communications between professionals, politicians, bureaucrats and the public. It is obvious that many politicians and bureaucrats and the public do not understand the role or importance of geologists in our society. This is our fault.

The development and role of the CCGO is worth additional thought and support. The growth of the CCGO is

probably strongly dependent on the energy and leadership of the executive director which is being sought. I understand that Bob Tepel is interested in getting the CCGP going but is not interested in the executive director position. I anticipate the position will probably require someone to devote at least a routine of 10 to 20 hours per week, not a typical volunteer position, requiring a payroll and support staff. Supported by funds from the geology groups throughout the state.

The main question this brings up is whether we are ready to 1) commit to better communication and improvement of geology and geologists' roles in the state or 2) are we going to continue occasional successful and unsuccessful knee-jerk reactions to politicians and bureaucrats efforts to undermine our importance, or elimination of our professional licenses, for the sake of saving administrative costs and ignorance of public safety. Want to volunteer or provide an opinion on this issue? call or e-mail Dave Ebersold or bring it up at our monthly meetings. See you there.



Chairman's Column

Dave Ebersold

Wow! Another month has passed already? Here's some info on what has been happening. On January 11, the first organizational meeting of the California Counsel of Geoscience Organizations (CCGO) was held in San Jose. Attendees included representatives from all three California Sections of AEG, Inland Geological Society, Groundwater Resources Association, American Institute for Professional Geologists, Association for Women Geoscientists, and Northern California Geological Society. While I had planned on attending, I instead had to travel to Mexico City the preceding Friday night for 5 days to wrap up some project related issues. My apologies for also missing our January meeting as a result. In any case, Eldon Gath was able to attend as our representative. Notes from the first meeting are included in the newsletter this month. The second meeting will be held in Berkeley on February 15 and I will be attending. I believe as you learn more about CCGO, you will agree that the potential for this organization to advance the concepts of competent geologic practice is much greater than anything we currently have.

Each of the California AEG Section Chairpersons provided comments to the California Integrated Waste Management Board's AB 1220 Proposed Regulations regarding landfills. Please let me know if you would like a copy of the Response to Comments issued by the CIWMB.

The Professional Engineers in California Government (PECG) has an initiative on the '98 ballot known as the Competitive Bidding Initiative. PECG, which consists of state employees, is the primary backer of this initiative. An umbrella organization known as Taxpayers for Efficient Government is pushing for its approval and have dubbed the initiative "The Government Cost Savings & Taxpayer Protection Amendment." The NO side is operating under the umbrella name of Taxpayers Fed Up With More State

Continued from page 3

Bureaucracy (FedUp)! Key coalition members are the California Chamber of Commerce, the American Institute of Architects, and Consulting Engineers & Land Surveyors of CA (CELSAC). Based on an analysis published in CALPEEK, currently State and local governments are given the flexibility to contract with private firms without competitive bidding. The fear is that if the initiative passes, major projects such as hospitals, roads, bridges, schools would be designed by State employees, thus making the State of California the "largest engineering, surveying, and architectural design firm in the world." This initiative promises to be a nasty fight. I have asked Bob Hollingsworth to look into this some more and report back to the Section.

Hope to see you all at the February meeting!!!

Announcement -

**THE CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF
GEOSCIENCE ORGANIZATIONS:**

**California Geologists Enter a New Era
in Public Interest Activities**

In January, representatives from several of the leading California-based geoscience organizations met in San Jose to discuss ways to improve communications regarding geology issues and geological practices in the state.

First, the world of legislation and regulation requires a lot of work that gives employment to many geologists, but the laws and regulations requiring the work are often so poorly focused they waste our money and efforts for clients, businesses, and taxpayers. Other geology-based legislation and regulations that would save lives and money have also been ignored or thwarted by lobbyist and politicians representing special interests groups. For example, earthquake safety measures recommended by blue-ribbon panels after major earthquakes are routinely ignored or forgotten. Hydrogeologists in our state continue to struggle with the confidentiality issues associated with water well drillers' logs, which protects only drillers and harms the public. Greater availability of these logs would reduce research efforts and costs on projects and help make better decisions and science.

Second, our business opportunities and professional practice conditions are under constant scrutiny, not only by the state Dept. of Consumer Affairs, but by the administration, legislators, public interest groups, and other professional/business coalitions.

In both areas, California geologists have not adequately participated at the State and local levels, either in the public interest or in the profession's interest. However, architects, engineers, accountants, real estate brokers, and farmers have formed strong coalitions to advance their interests in Sacramento and to contribute their expertise in the public interest. Over the years, while our Board of Registration has been embattled with threats of being sunsetted, AEG has noticed the effective efforts these other groups have made in Sacramento. This prompted the recent founding of the California Council of Geoscience Organizations (CCGO).

The initial-organizing meeting was attended by leaders of several state-wide and local organizations including:

American Institute of Professional Geologists, Groundwater Resources Association of California, Northern California Geological Society, Inland Geological Society, the Association for Women Geoscientists, and the three California Sections of the Association of Engineering Geologists. Administrative and financial issues were discussed, and by-laws are being prepared by a committee. A Mission Statement was adopted:

The California Council of Geoscience Organizations advocates the use of sound geological knowledge and practice in proposing, reviewing, and monitoring statutes, regulations, and public policies.

The initial concept for the Council is that membership will be open only to geoscience organizations and businesses. In one plan under consideration, the Council would be controlled by a Board of Directors appointed by the member organizations for staggered three-year terms. An Executive Director, and possibly a lobbyist, would be retained initially on a part-time basis.

Experience indicates geologists are either reluctant, too busy or ignorant of how to get involved in politics or bureaucracies, either in the public interest or in the interest of their profession, although we all realize the many benefits our work has on society. Frank McClure, former U.S. Senator from Idaho, in addressing a group of scientists and engineers, said "If you don't like politics and don't get involved in politics, you will be governed by those who do." All too true.

Through CCGO, California geoscientists may now be take their political destiny into their own hands and head down the activist trail. If done with true professional dedication, this will benefit the profession, our colleagues in related fields, and the public. By allowing California's geoscience groups to build consensus through CCGO it has the potential to add to the power and mission of every organization that joins it without taking anything from the independence or power of its member organizations.

For information about CCGO's next meeting, contact Betsy Mathieson at Terratech (voice) 408-297-6969, (Fax) 408-297-7716, or home e-mail BMathieson@aol.com.

Announcement -

GEOTECHNICAL DATA - BIDDER'S LIST

The Department of Conservation's, Division of Mines and Geology (DMG) is developing maps showing areas prone to liquefaction, earthquake-triggered landslides, and other earthquake-caused ground failure. DMG intends to purchase geotechnical data collected throughout Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura Counties, California. The data purchased must have been collected by or under the supervision of a civil engineer and/or engineering geologist licensed to practice in California, to be placed on the list of bidders, please provide the following information: Company name, address, phone number, names and license numbers of qualifying employees, a brief description of firm and expertise in geotechnical data collection and analysis.

Send the information to: Division of Mines and Geology, Seismic Hazard Mapping Program, 801 K Street, MS 12-31, Sacramento, CA 95814. Qualified respondents will be placed on a bidder list and will be requested to submit a price list and statement regarding ability to provide data within a specific time frame. For a list of the specific types of geotechnical data required, please call Beatriz Gonzalez at (916) 322-9300.

Visit CDMG's WWW site at
<http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dmg/>

**GEOTECHNICAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND GIS
From Shooting to Digital Use**



A Two-Day Short Course Sponsored by the
**Association of Engineering Geologists
Southern California Section**

April 19 and 20, 1997 - 8am to 4:30pm
Irvine Ranch Water District Office
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, California

A two-day short course titled "**GEOTECHNICAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND GIS: From Shooting to Digital Use**" is scheduled for April 19 and 20, 1997, in Irvine. The short course instructor is **Woodrow L. Higdon** of **Geo-Tech Imagery International**. This short course was taught last fall for the northern California sections of AEG and was well praised by the attendees.

Topics to be discussed by Mr. Higdon during this two-day short course will include cameras, film types, lab print production, auxiliary lighting for ground shooting, shooting techniques, general litigation site documentation, infrared photography, aerial photograph interpretation, digital imaging, MapInfo GIS software, and Sure Map raster data sets. More specific details regarding topics to be covered can be provided upon request.

This is a short course you shouldn't pass up! Continuing education units will be awarded to AEG members. The reasonable course fee will include a CD with course-related digital images, lunches and drinks/munchies during breaks. Plan to attend and **SIGN UP NOW!** Complete the attached registration form and return it with your check promptly. Registration is limited to 90 participants. Advance registration of \$95 is requested by April 9, 1997 and will be confirmed by letter. Please add \$25 for LATE registration (postmarked after April 9, 1997). If you have any questions, please contact Sue Tanges at 619-442-8022 or s.tanges@worldnet.att.net.

* * * * *

REGISTRATION FORM, AEG SHORT COURSE
Geotechnical Photography and GIS: From Shooting to Digital Use
April 19 and 20, 1997, in Irvine, California

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

City/St/ZIP _____

Phone _____

Make check or money order payable to:
Association of Engineering Geologists
and mail to:

AEG Short Course
c/o Southland Geotechnical Consultants
1238-A Greenfield Drive
El Cajon, CA 92021

Course Fee: \$95 per person (by April 9)
\$120 per person (after April 9)

Are you an AEG member? _____

SEE YOU APRIL 19th & 20th!!!

ELEVENTH ANNUAL

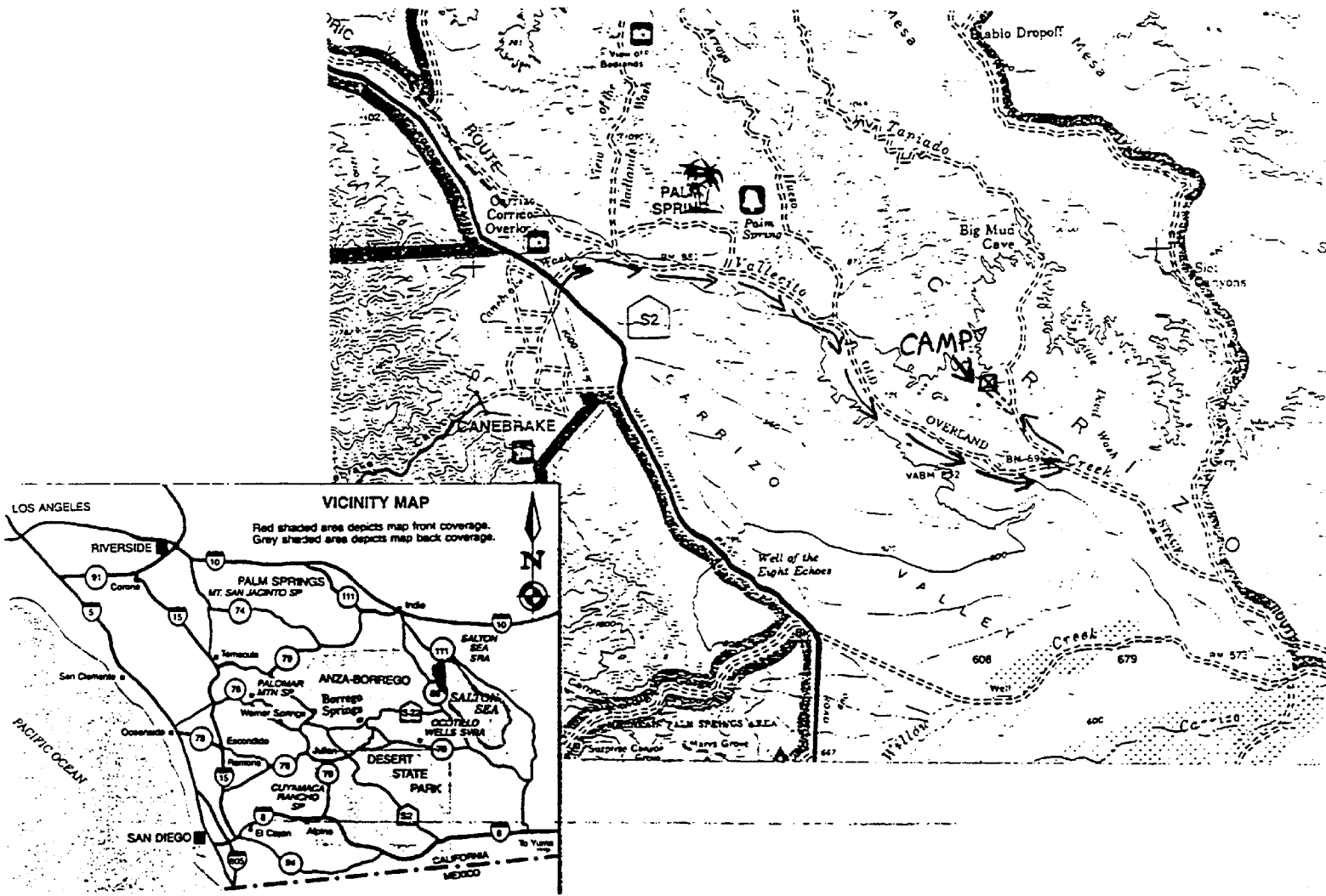
S.D.S.U. ALUMNI WINTER FIELD TRIP

ARROYO TAPIADO, ANZA-BORREGO

Field Trip Date: February 21, 22, 23, 1997

Directions to camp: From Scissors Crossing at the intersection of Banner Grade (HWY 78) and San Felipe Road (S2) - The Great Southern Overland Stage Route of 1849, drive approximately 26.4 miles to the southeast on S2, {21.9 mi north from Ocotillo} turn left (east) at the "PALM SPRING" sign, located near Canebrake. Drive approximately 4.6 miles on Vallecito Creek Wash to the "ARROYO TAPIADO" sign. Turn left (north) up Arroyo Tapiado approximately 1.4 miles to fork in road. Take (west) left fork 0.5 miles to campsite. Look for Bill's ☺ signs.

We will be monitoring CB Channel 11 and 2-Meter Ham Radio frequency 147.15 MHz.



As in the past, this will be a dry camp, so bring everything you will need. Bring your Family and Friends - the more the merrier!! Please note that the Park may charge a \$5 day use fee per vehicle. Please call Lyne Perry (ph/fax 619-445-3928) for details.

In order to reduce costs, we will be purging our mailing list. If you want to remain on the list for 1998, contact Lyne Perry by March 30, 1997. SDAG members should continue to receive a flyer.

ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

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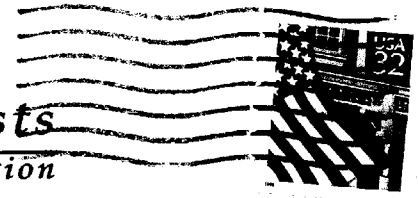
TITLE/DESCRIPTION	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
Baldwin, J.E., and Sitar, N., 1991, <u>Loma Prieta Earthquake: engineering geologic perspectives</u> , AEG Special Publication No. 1, 170p.	\$10.00		
Bishop, K, and Tandy, L., 1995, <u>Ground failure during the January 17, 1994 Northridge earthquake</u> : Association of Engineering Geologists, Southern California Section, Annual Field Trip Guidebook, November 11, 1995, 106 p.	\$25.00		
Blake, T.F., 1996, Technical Program Coordinator, <u>What's shaking in southern California? Seismic hazards analysis - The sequel</u> : Association of Engineering Geologists, Southern California Section, Short Course, January 20, 1996, program notes in 2-inch 3-ring binder.	\$40.00		
Blake, T., and Larson, R.A., eds., 1991, <u>Engineering geology along the Simi-Santa Rosa fault system and adjacent areas, Simi Valley to Camarillo, Ventura County, California</u> : Association of Engineering Geologists, Southern California Section, Annual Field Trip Guidebook, August 24, 1991, v. 1 & 2, 383 p. 4 map sheets.	\$33.00		
Buckley, C. I., and Larson, R.A., eds., 1990, <u>Geology and engineering geology of the western Soledad Basin, Los Angeles County, California</u> : Association of Engineering Geologists, Southern California Section, Annual Field Trip Guidebook, November 3, 1990, 185 p., 2 map sheets.	\$25.00		
City of Los Angeles, 1982, <u>Geologic maps of the Santa Monica Mountains, Los Angeles, California</u> : compiled by the City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering, reprinted by the Association of Engineering Geologists, Southern California Section, 342 p., 333 map sheets, 1" - 400'.	\$25.00		
Ehlig, P.L., and Steiner, E.A., eds., 1992a, <u>Engineering geology field trips: Orange County, Santa Monica Mountains and Malibu</u> : Association of Engineering Geologists, 35th Annual Meeting, October 2-9, 1992.	\$25.00		
Leighton, F.B., <u>Mitigation of geotechnical litigation in California</u> : Munson Book Associates, Huntington Beach, CA, 274 p.	\$44.00		
Sieh, K.E., and Matti, J.C., 1992, <u>Earthquake geology, San Andreas fault system, Palm Springs to Palmdale</u> : Association of Engineering Geologists, 35th Annual Meeting, Field Trip Guidebook, October 3-4, 1992, ??p.	\$5.00		
Stout, M.L., ed., 1992, <u>Proceedings of the 35th annual meeting, Association of Engineering Geologists, October 2-9, 1992</u> : 740 p.	\$5.00		
<u>A Guide to Services as a Forensic and Expert Witness: 1995</u>	\$15.00		
<u>National Colloquium on Professional Registration for Geologists</u> : Association of Engineering Geologists, 33rd Annual Meeting, October 1-5, 1990.	\$5.00		
<u>National Symposium on Mine Subsidence - Prediction and Control</u> : Association of Engineering Geologists, 33rd Annual Meeting, October 1-5, 1990.	\$5.00		
<u>Perspectives in Paleoseismology</u> , AEG Special Publication No. 6	\$20.00		
<u>Professional Licensure of Geologists, An Exploration Issue</u>	\$12.00		

Delivery charges are \$2.50 for the first book, 50¢ for each additional book

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