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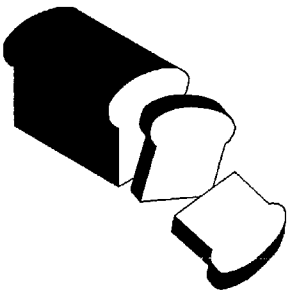
ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

Southern California Section

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NEWSLETTER - APRIL 1998

APRIL DINNER MEETING



April Dinner Meeting

TUESDAY APRIL 14, 1998

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

Stevens Steak House 5332 Stevens Place, City of Commerce, California

Reservations Call Nichole Harris at Montgomery Watson (626) 568-6041

Cost \$20.00 per person Please make reservations by Friday April 10, 1998

Students - Free with valid ID Reservations which are not canceled will be billed

SPEAKERS Al Barrows and Charlie Buckley

TOPIC Implementation of the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act - SHMA 1990 and the Duties of the State Mining and Geology Board and the California Division of Mines and Geology

Al Barrows is a CDMG Senior Engineering Geologist - Hazards Evaluation and Zoning Project. He received his M.S. (1968) and Ph.D. (1969) in Geology from UCLA. He started his distinguished career with CDMG in 1971.

Charlie Buckley was appointed as a technical member to the SMGB by Governor Wilson in July of 1997. He serves as Chair of the Mineral Conservation Committee and is a member of the Geohazards and Mining Reclamation Standards Committees. He also serves on the Inter-Board Coordinating Committee with members of the Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists. Mr. Buckley received his B.S. (1978) in Engineering Geology from UCLA.

Mr. Barrows and Mr. Buckley will introduce you to the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB), its members and duties. They will receive questions and comments from the consulting profession regarding implementation of SHMA and SP 117. In addition, they will lead a discussion of the technical aspects of data analysis and interpretation for preparation of Seismic Hazard Maps.

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-INSIDE-
President's
Message



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dave Ebersold

Last month's joint meeting with ASCE was an a huge success. It was great to see 204 members of AEG and ASCE come together to hear Dr. Ray Seed discuss the rapidly evolving practice of soil liquefaction analysis. Dr. Seed stressed that practitioners in southern California are on the leading edge of this field and are setting the direction for the rest of the state. Soil liquefaction is one of those areas where the expertise of both engineers and geologists overlap. Cooperation between both is required to thoroughly address the related issues.

When one looks at large-scale projects, the expertise of civil, geotechnical, mechanical, structural, and electrical engineers; engineering geologists; hydrogeologists; architects; planners; and economists are required to get stuff built. With so many disciplines required to implement projects, I find the engineer's Fields of Expertise document being circulated by the Board of Registrations for Professional Engineers and Land

Surveyors curious and rather myopic in its technical viewpoint. As an educated, trained, experienced, and licensed professional, I'm insulted at the characterization that I can't do quantitative work. From a business standpoint, I'm angry at the attempt to limit those areas where I believe I can practice as a result of my licensure and experience. As your Section Chairman, I'm amazed that more of you aren't infuriated!

The International Building Code is being developed to replace the Uniform Building Code. Too bad that there is virtually no incorporation of geology or engineering geology in it. AEG is one of the most effective organizations to address this issue. Anyone care enough to want to get involved in this?

About three weeks ago the California Council of Geoscience Organizations (CCGO) filed documents to incorporate as a mutual benefit, non profit corporation. As you all know, I think CCGO has the potential to be a great organization. At the April

meeting, we'll be voting on whether or not the AEG - Southern California Section wants to join CCGO.

Once upon a time, all of the AEG Sections had 1-year terms for their chairpersons. Then the Southern California Section said "This is stupid and there is no continuity on the Board of Directors, we should all switch to 2-year terms." And the Board of Directors said "This is good" and made it so. Then the Southern California Section said "We've got so many people that want to be Chairperson but can't be because we have a 2-year term. What shall we do?" So they thought and thought and decided that 1-year terms was the answer. And the Section voted and made it so. Now as one of the only Sections in AEG with a 1-year term and the victim of a lack of continuity on the Board of Directors, I'm asking you to consider switching back to 2-year terms and intend to take a vote on this at the April meeting.

You will soon be nominating officers for next year's term. Anyone interested in getting involved in the section, either as an officer or a committee member should contact me by telephone or e-mail.

Anyone interested in an AEG raft trip? Planned for June 13 and 14, 1998, on the King's River. The first day will include a field trip somewhere in the King's Canyon or Yosemite area followed by a day of rafting on Sunday. This will be a joint trip with the Sacramento and San Francisco Sections. Limited to 20 people and the cost is expected be about \$200.00. More details as they become available.

We are also looking for a volunteer to create a Web Page for the AEG Southern California Section. Please contact me if you are interested. See you all at the meeting!

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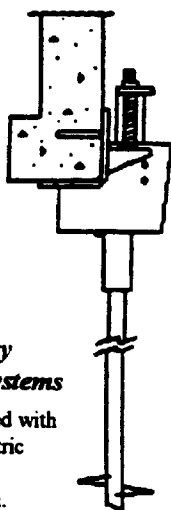
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As Washington is the state of my birth, I feel justified in the following response to the March, 1998 AEG Newsletter item.

The passage quoted in the March, 1998 AEG Newsletter entitled, "A Message From the Washington State Legislature," and now offered as Washington State Senate Bill 6394, is typical of recent efforts by the religious right or the academic left, or perhaps both, to blur the distinction between scientific theory and religious theory so as to place creationism on the same intellectual plane of reasonableness as that of evolution by the deceptive and invidious device of assuming evolution is taught as a 'fact,' i.e., a proposition demonstrably true. In demolishing this straw-man idea, Bill 6394 tacitly implies that creationism, a religious theory, is equally as valid as evolution, a scientific theory. However, the two cannot, according to the universally accepted Apples-and-Oranges Doctrine, be compared as alternative theories, because they are intrinsically different.

Scientific theory is only valid if it is *falsifiable* as in the case of the theory that men and apes are descended from a common ancestor. Someday it may be shown, perhaps through the DNA signature, that men are descended from one ancestor and apes from another. But until falsified in some manner, the common-ancestor theory is scientifically valid - not 'true' but simply valid - and should be regarded as such in our schools. On the other hand, the religious theory that the world was created in six days can never be falsified by any evidence of which we can conceive. That is not to say that the six-day theory should not be taught in our schools as well, but only as an unverifiable religious theory. On this basis, both can be presented to students, along, incidentally, with the fact this elementary distinction apparently is lost upon the dummies who wrote Senate Bill 6394.

Sincerely,
E. D. Michael

We welcome your opinion on the matter. Send correspondence to: the AEG Newsletter Editor, Linda Tandy, 1341 Hill Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90041.

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**Deadline for submittals to the
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May 1, 1998.**
Please submit via e-mail
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Association of Engineering Geologists
Southern California Section



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