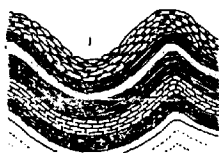


ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

Southern California Section

"Serving Professionals in Engineering, Environmental,
and Groundwater Geology
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NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 1998



August Dinner Meeting Tuesday August 11, 1998

5:30 - Social Hour 7:00 - Dinner 7:45 - Announcements 8:00 - Program

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

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

Cost \$20.00 per person (students \$10.00 w/ valid ID). Please make reservations by Friday August 10, 1998. "No-shows" will be billed.

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SPEAKER JEFFREY A. JOHNSON

**TOPIC "SUBSIDENCE AT KING HARBOR -- NATURAL OR
MAN-INDUCED?"**

Recent litigation focused on the performance of the breakwater at King Harbor, City of Redondo Beach. It is believed that the crest of the breakwater, relative to MSL, dropped several feet or more due to production-related subsidence above the Torrance oil field. Storm waves overtopped the lowered breakwater in early 1988, causing millions of dollars in damage to harbor facilities and structures. The results of a study, undertaken by Coastal Environments and its consultants, that reviewed natural and man-induced processes that could potentially account for the observed subsidence will be presented. Jeffrey A. Johnson is an engineering geologist with 20+ years of experience working on research and construction projects in Southern California and other parts of the world. He received his M.S. (geology) and Ph.D. (engineering) from UCLA. Currently, he is a commissioner on the California Seismic Safety Commission and will be teaching engineering geology at SDSU in the fall.

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

Two one-year terms as Chairman are quickly nearing an end as we prepare to transition Section operations to the newly elected officers at the August 11 meeting. I appreciate the trust that you have placed in me and am proud to have served the Section in a variety of positions for the past 7 years. The Section runs largely because of the efforts of 3 to 5 people who plan, organize, communicate, and commit to providing you with meetings, speakers, field trips, short courses, and newsletters. Please help the new officers serve you better by passing along your ideas for meetings, field trips, short course topics, etc. Only with this feedback can they provide you with what you expect from AEG.

I believe that we are entering a new era of coordination and cooperation among geologists throughout the state through participation in CCGO. Thank you for choosing me to represent the Section in this important organization. I will attend the next CCGO meeting on Saturday, August 8 in Sacramento. I also will communicate frequently with Wendy Schell, your new Chairman, and will provide updates in the newsletter, and if requested, brief updates at Section meetings.

Now I'm off on a much needed vacation...see you all on August 11! - Dave

ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMISSION APPROVES HISTORY/SOCIAL SCIENCE AND SCIENCE STANDARDS

The California Academic Standards Commission adopted California's first-ever statewide academic standards for History/Social Science and Science. Both sets of standards were adopted overwhelmingly by the commission (History/Social Science 16-0 and Science 16-0, with two abstentions). The commission, which serves as an advisory body to the State Board of Education, will

now recommend the standards to the board for its consideration. The board will adopt the final content standards by November 1, 1998. "These academic content standards represent the core content of science and the essential skills and knowledge students will need for employment, citizenship and lifelong learning," said Science Committee Chair Glenn T. Seaborg. "The science education standards we are recommending to the State Board of Education will be challenging and will provide a foundation for raising the level of achievement in science education for all California students."

"Our History/Social Science Standards are balanced and academically rigorous. I am especially proud of the civic values and virtues which they impart," said History/Social Science Committee Chair Lawrence Siskind. "When they graduate high school, California students will be ready to vote, to serve on juries, and to take their place in society as responsible citizens. Should they ever be called upon to fight for their country, these standards will teach them why their country is worth fighting for."

With the adoption of the History/Social Science and Science standards, the commission has completed its charge of developing standards in the four core content areas. The commission submitted standards for mathematics and English language arts to the State Board of Education last October.

"Our process welcomed public debate, excluded no one, and forged consensus," said commission Chair Ellen F. Wright. "Good public policy, which these standards represent, requires that all voices, no matter their source, pitch or volume, participate in the chorus of public decision making."

"The standards define a new vision for achievement in California's schools and we all should be very proud that our diligent, inclusive efforts have culminated in the nation's best standards," Wright said. Final copies of the proposed standards are available from the California Academic Standards Commission office (916) 323-8013 or online at <http://www.ca.gov/goldstandards>.

**ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS
41ST ANNUAL MEETING, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 3, 1998**

Invitation from William Clevenger, AEG '98 Chair:

Greetings from the Emerald City!

Welcome to Seattle! The Washington Section is honored to host the 1998 annual meeting of the Association of Engineering Geologists. We have planned this meeting for five years, so we figure we're ready to give you a very rich and rewarding experience.

There will be lots to see and do while you're here. The Emerald City is blossoming as I write, filling the countryside with a lush green blanket for the bright yellows of Scotch broom and the purple and pink hues of rhododendron. By the time you arrive, the maples, birch, oak, and alder will be changing to their fall colors, splashing different shades of red and yellow among the evergreens.

You will see a city magnificent among prominent hills of glacial drift deposits. Clear and pristine waters, salty and fresh, fill the long and narrow troughs carved by glacial ice more than ten millennia past. You will encounter a culture that brings the ultra-modern into a frontier heritage. You will find people who are vibrant and refreshing. Our city traffic problems may be on a par with some of America's larger cities, but people are still polite and you won't hear any disparaging horns.

Enjoy our wonderfully orchestrated field trips, tour activities, and technical programs. Meet with your old and new colleagues and enjoy creating experiences you will remember and talk about for a long time. Attend our technical and social events and plan to be entertained.

So, please get ready! Mark your calendars and plan to stay a few extra days on either side of the meeting. We look forward to seeing you in September!

William Clevenger, Chair AEG '98

Registration Information (by mail):

Complete the Annual Meeting Registration Form (see page 21 of the recently-distributed *Program with Abstracts*). Register only one (1) professional or student registrant and one(1) non-professional spouse/guest per form. Complete each selection, determine the total amount due, and pay by check or credit card. Send the form and your check (made out to AEG) or credit card information to:

Julie Keaton - AEG
130 Yucca Drive
Sedona, AZ 86336-3222
520-204-1553

To register by fax and credit card, fax the form to 520-204-5597. Registration information will not be accepted by e-mail.

Note: Pre-registration deadline is August 30, 1998.

AEG 41ST ANNUAL MEETING (continued)

SHORT COURSES

Six short courses will be offered in conjunction with the 41st Annual Meeting. The courses were selected to offer attendees a wide variety of educational opportunities. Each course will be accredited for continuing education units (CEU's) and include course materials and coffee/soda breaks. Professional Annual Meeting registration for at least one day is required to participate in the short courses. Short Courses include:

- Stream System Evaluations with Interpretations for Habitat Rehabilitation and Restoration - Tuesday, September 29, 1998, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- Geotechnical and Environmental Applications of Time Domain Reflectometry - Tuesday, September 29, 1998, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Effective Presentation Techniques - Wednesday, September 30, 1998, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
- The Field-Developed Cross-Section: A Systematic Method of Portraying Dimensional Subsurface Information and Modeling for Geotechnical Interpretation and Analysis - Wednesday, September 30, 1998, 8:00 am - 12:00 noon
- Test Your Professional Liability Loss Prevention I.Q. - Wednesday, September 30, 1998, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
- Applications of Surface and Borehole Geophysics to Environmental and Geotechnical Problems - Sunday, October 4, 1998, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

In conjunction with the meeting theme of the 1998 Annual Meeting Engineering Geology - Knowledge for Better Decisions, the technical program will focus on classic engineering geology; geologic hazards; legal and communication issues related to engineering geology; case histories; professional and ethical considerations in engineering geology; project management; risk assessments and site evaluations; landslides and slope stability; tunneling; fluvial geomorphology; environmental investigation and clean-up; field and laboratory testing developments; 1996/97 rainstorm/flood events in the Pacific Northwest; seismic hazards and remediation; ground water investigation and modeling; and earthquakes hazards. The 1998 Annual Meeting Committee has planned technical sessions, symposia, and short courses that will provide an outstanding opportunity for geologists and other professionals to share state-of-the-art practices.

Technical Sessions will be held on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, October 1, 2, and 3, respectively. Sessions start at 8:00 in the morning and last until 5:00 in the evening. Symposia will be presented on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Please refer to the calendar of events in the *Annual Meeting Program and Abstracts* for details.

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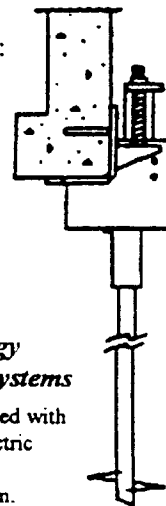
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

REBUTTAL - SENATE BILL 1984

When listening to Dave Ebersold discuss SB1984 at our July 14, 1998 meeting, I could hear a spin-drop. Let's put his spin to the Spellman-perspective. This bill authorizes an all-multiple choice National exam for California geologists, prepared by a private South Carolina Corporation called Association of State Broads of Geology (ASBOG), plus a 1-hour, multiple-choice Supplemental California-specific exam, and raises fees from the current \$100 RG exam up to \$550.

What's going on here? This is serious enough to inform our 475 SC/AEG members so they can vote on the bill. Your standard reply is, "I did not have enough time to inform the membership." The bill was introduced February 19, 1998. There was nothing...nada...in our February, March, April, May, and June 1998 newsletters except for my short note in June. Yet, SC/AEG pays AEG's California lobbyist (Judy Wolen) \$7,200/yr to do what you ask. You asked her to push SB1984 without explaining the pros and cons to our 475 members.

The bill was heard in the Business & Professions Committee April 27, 1998. The Geology Board must have informed the 3 AEG Sections of this bill before April because it ultimately affects the quality and quantity of geologists practicing in California? In my 8 years on the Board (5 as President) and 10 years on the Geology Board's Technical

Advisory Committee (TAC), the Board always informed their Committees, Professional Associations, and licensees. Not so this time. Did the Board have an ulterior motive? The Board's Informational Bulletin 98-03, received July 8, 1998, about the bill is a "day late and a dollar short" for registrant's opinions. When I told Board President Seena Hoose this, she agreed.

To this very day, with few exceptions, geologists I contacted did not have a clue as to what SB1984 is about, or, how it could affect them. Our Legislative Committee was asleep. If it were not for testimony at the State Capitol by Ken Hersh and myself at the June 30, 1998 Consumer Protection Committee hearing, ASBOG would still be written into the bill. I find it strange, Dave, that our January, February, March, April, May, and June 1998 newsletters prominently discuss the formation of the California Council of Geoscience Organizations (CCGO), but nothing about the merits or demerits of SB1984.

In my opinion, you should have gone to the 475 members before you acted on their behalf and authorized our lobbyist to support SB1984. Time be damned, the issues were too important to keep our geologic professionals in the dark. This goes for our Board, too.

Buzz Spellman

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONAL - Ninyo & Moore seeks an Environmental Professional for Phase I and II assessments and site remediation. Chemistry and industrial hygiene/safety experience is a plus. Applicants should send their resume to: Ninyo & Moore, 9272 Jeronimo Road, Suite 123A, Irvine, CA 92618 Attn: R. Kurtz. EOE.

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Next deadline for newsletter submittals is 8/30/98.

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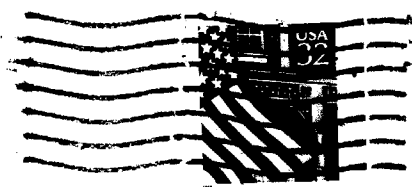
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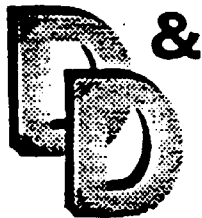
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