

ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

Southern California Section

"Serving Professionals in Engineering, Environmental, and Groundwater
Geology Since 1957"

NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 1998

September Dinner Meeting

Tuesday September 8 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 (949) 253-5924 ext. 564

Cost \$20.00 per person (students \$10.00 w/ valid i.d.). Please make reservations by Monday September 7, 1998. "No-shows" will be billed.

OFFICERS

Speaker WOLFGANG ROTH

CHAIR

Wendy Schell
(714) 250-1421
schellbw@aol.com

Topic TUNNELING IN LOS ANGELES (Lessons Learned from Recent Construction Claims at NORS and other projects)

VICE CHAIR

David Seymour
(714) 433-2000

Technical and contractual issues of recent Los Angeles tunnel projects plagued by construction mishaps and claims will be discussed. The focus of the talk is the North Outfall Replacement Sewer (NORS) tunnel project, where the contractor chose an open-face digger shield for tunneling through unstable dry dune sands beneath LAX. When face instability and excessive ground losses resulted in a large sinkhole, a changed-conditions claim was decided by a court in favor of the contractor. This, even though ground conditions had been as predicted in the GDSR, and the contract language clearly placed responsibility/risk for tunneling means and methods on the contractor. Another claim on NORS involved ground losses during tunneling with an Earth Pressure Balance (EPB) machine in mixed-face conditions, where a Dispute Review Board (DRB) ruled to split a claim between the owner and contractor. It has been argued that these and other recent tunneling mishaps and claims in the LA area are directly related to over-reliance on performance-based specifications. Minimum standards for tunneling means and methods should be specified, in order to avoid low-bidder choices of "corner-cutting" tunneling equipment and excavation techniques based on overly optimistic/unrealistic assumptions of ground behavior.

TREASURER

Doug Santo
(626) 930-1224

SECRETARY

Martin Lieurance
(805) 499-5035

Wolfgang Roth currently is a Principal Engineer with Dames & Moore, Los Angeles, where he has worked since 1978. He holds a M.S. in Civil Engineering and Ph.D. in Soil Mechanics from the University of Graz, Austria, and was a post-doctoral scholar at UCLA under Professor Ken Lee. He has extensive credentials in the design and construction supervision of cut-and-cover tunnels and stations. In addition, he has conducted design review and failure/claim investigations on tunnel projects in Los Angeles; Toronto, Canada; and Taipei, China. Prior to joining Dames & Moore, he taught soil mechanics and foundation engineering at Catholic University, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Chair's Column

Greetings! Since this is my first column as chair of the Southern California Section, I'd like to let you know a bit about myself. I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Geology at the University of Waikato in New Zealand in 1989. I have been employed at Leighton and Associates for the last 3 years as an engineering geologist. Prior to that I worked as an independent consultant in the greater Los Angeles area.

As your new section chair I hope to keep you informed of the issues that affect our profession through our monthly dinner meetings and the section newsletter. Our section Vice-Chair, Dave Seymour, is working hard lining up speakers for the coming months to keep our membership informed of the work and research that is occurring in our field. In order the section officers to achieve these goals, we need your help. Our monthly meetings are the only regular in-person gathering of our membership and I encourage all of our members to attend on a regular basis. These meetings are an ideal forum for discussion of the issues affecting our profession and votes may be held at these meetings to help establish the section's opinion on various issues. Our monthly newsletter is the other forum available to all members regarding important issues. I strongly urge you to let me know your opinion on any issue. While I will make every possible effort to inform our membership in advance of any issues our section needs to make a decision on, please be aware that on occasion, it will be necessary for me to make decisions on behalf of the section when there is insufficient time to inform the membership in advance. That is the responsibility you have elected me to have. Not all of you will agree with some of these decisions, and that is understandable. The section officers will not be able to ferret out every issue that may affect engineering geologists in our section. We need your help; if you hear of a piece of legislation or other issue that is of relevance to our profession, it is your responsibility to inform me or the other officers so that the section members can be informed and voice their opinions. In the coming year, look forward to a range of activities and speakers at our monthly meetings. In the planning stages is a Corporate Sponsors evening with displays and presentations from our corporate supporters.

Members should encourage their company to become supporters of AEG. If you or your company are interested in becoming a Corporate Sponsor of AEG and participating in this event, please let me know. In next month's newsletter you will find a survey regarding what you would like to see in the coming months, where you would like meetings to be held, etc. I encourage you to reply to this survey and the section officers and I will do our best to accommodate the needs of our members.

Wendy Schell

SB 1984 Update

Following is a brief update on the status of SB 1984. According to the Official California Legislative Information web site (<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov>), SB 1984 passed a vote on the Senate floor last Thursday (8/27/98) by a margin of 22-13. The bill is now on the Governor's desk, where he has up to 30 days to sign or veto the bill. Section members are encouraged to express their views on this pending legislation by letter or by fax: Governor Pete Wilson, 1st floor State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. Fax: (916) 445-4633. Following is detailed information on last week's vote:

VOTES - ROLL CALL

MEASURE: SB 1984

AUTHOR: Greene

TOPIC: State Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists

DATE: 08/27/98

LOCATION: SEN. FLOOR

MOTION: Unfinished Business SB1984 Greene (AYES 22. NOES 13.) (PASS)

AYES:

Alpert, Burton, Costa, Dills, Greene, Hayden, Hughes, Johnston, Karnette, Kopp, Lockyer, Maddy, O'Connell, Peace, Polanco, Rosenthal, Schiff, Sher, Solis, Thompson, Vasconcellos, Watson

NOES:

Bulte, Haynes, Hurtt, Johannessen, Johnson, Kelley, Knight, Leslie, Lewis, McPherson, Monteith, Mountjoy, Wright

ABSENT, ABSTAINING, OR NOT VOTING:

Ayala, Calderon, Craven, Rainey, Vacancy

AEG Southern California Section Year to Date Treasury Report

With the passing of the August meeting, my term as Treasurer has come to a close. Doug Santo will be taking over the role of Treasurer for the next year, and will be closing out the 1997/1998 fiscal year. While many of you are aware that the Treasurer collects your money at each meeting, I wanted to let you know the other vital role the Treasurer plays for our organization. AEG runs on a fiscal year starting October 1st. At the end of each quarter, each of the AEG sections must submit financial reports to AEG National. I consider it a duty of the Treasurer to inform the paying members of our section of our financial status. As you can see from the year to date financial statement, AEG Southern California section has a healthy account balance in our operating account. Projections indicate that at year end the section will be at about break-even. You will notice a drastic decline in income after the second quarter **DO NOT BE ALARMED!** This is a result of our Section dues being forwarded from AEG National, it is normal for most of our section income to arrive in the first two quarters with very little income for the remainder of the year. If you have any questions about our financial situation, please do not hesitate to contact me or Doug Santo, we will be happy to discuss the finances with you. Look for our year end financial statement in the November newsletter. - Wendy Schell, 1997/1998 Treasurer

AEG Southern California Section - Operating Account

Beginning Date: 10/1/97

Beginning Balance: \$12,124.11

Quarter Ending Date: 12/31/97 3/31/98 6/30/98

SECTION INCOME CATEGORIES	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	YTD Totals
Section Dues (from HQ)	\$6,015.00	\$3,555.00		\$9,570.00
Section Dues (local)	\$15.00			\$15.00
Meetings	\$2,145.00	\$4,960.00	\$1,755.00	\$8,860.00
Field Trips	\$460.00			\$460.00
Publications		\$263.50		\$263.50
Interest	\$40.91	\$46.85	\$42.62	\$130.38
Advertising		\$947.00		\$947.00
Other	\$423.58			\$423.58
Uncleared Checks		\$908.14		\$908.14
TOTAL INCOME:	\$9,099.49	\$10,680.49	\$1,797.62	\$21,577.60

Quarter Ending Date: 12/31/97 3/31/98 6/30/98

SECTION EXPENSES CATEGORIES	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	YTD Totals
Meetings	\$1,218.09	\$4,896.02	\$1,927.48	\$8,041.59
Speaker Costs			\$316.84	\$316.84
Short Courses		\$100.00		\$100.00
Lobbyist	\$1,980.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$5,580.00
Printing, Postage	\$289.90	\$1,205.73	\$670.69	\$2,166.32
BOD Meeting		\$760.60	\$324.82	\$1,085.42
Banking Costs		\$4.00		\$4.00
CCGO Dues			\$400.00	\$400.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$3,487.99	\$8,766.35	\$5,439.83	\$17,694.17
Quarterly Surplus	\$5,611.50	\$1,914.14	(\$3,642.21)	\$3,883.43
Final Account Balance	\$17,735.61	\$19,649.75	\$16,007.54	\$16,007.54

AEG Southern California Section - Stout Fund

Beginning Balance (8/1/97): \$13,813.45

Interest: \$736.97

Donations: \$-

Scholarship Withdrawals: \$-

Ending Balance (7/31/98): \$14,550.42

Advance Call for Symposia, 42nd Annual AEG Meeting, Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Colleague,

The Utah Section of the AEG is currently preparing for the 42nd annual meeting, which is to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, September 25 through October 1, 1999. As Committee Chairman for Symposia and Technical Sessions, I am contacting all AEG committee managers and section chairs to solicit ideas for topics and prospective conveners for conference symposia. Your help in identifying individuals who may want to organize symposia would be greatly appreciated. These individuals would be responsible for providing descriptions of symposia, determining who will be invited to submit abstracts, and presiding over sessions.

The first call for abstracts will be posted in the fall issue of the AEG News. Interested symposia conveners should prepare a paragraph for me describing the symposium topic, purpose and content by February 1, 1999. We already have had a few suggestions and inquiries regarding symposia topics and look forward to additional participation. Symposia topics must be finalized by February 15, 1999, so they can be included in the spring issue of the AEG News. Abstracts for all sessions must be submitted by May 1, 1999.

We plan to provide a high quality, technically informative and interesting conference in 1999, and look forward to your help with this matter. If you have any questions regarding symposia organization, do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Greg C. Schlenker
 AGRA Earth & Environmental, Inc.
 4137 South 500 West
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84103
 Ph: (801) 266-0720; Fax: (801) 266-0727; E-mail: gschlenker@agraus.com

July 30, 1998 - Charles G. Groat, Ph.D. Named Director of the U.S.G.S.

The President today announced his intent to nominate Charles G. Groat to serve as Director of the United States Geological Survey at the Department of the Interior. Dr. Charles G. Groat, of El Paso, Texas, has more than 25 years of experience in the geological field. Dr. Groat is currently Associate Vice President for Research and Sponsored Projects at the University of Texas at El Paso. Since 1995, he has been Professor of Geological Sciences, Director of the Center for Environmental Resource Management, and Director of the Environmental Science and Engineering Ph.D. Program at the University of Texas at El Paso. From 1991 to 1995, Dr. Groat was Executive Director of the Center for Coastal, Energy, and Environmental Resources at the Louisiana State University. Immediately prior, Dr. Groat served as Executive Director of the American Geological Institute. From 1978 to 1990, Dr. Groat served as a Professor at the Department of Geology and Geophysics at Louisiana State University and Director and State Geologist of the Louisiana Geological Survey at the Department of Natural Resources and Louisiana State University. From 1983 to 1988, he also served as Assistant to the Secretary at the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.

Dr. Groat is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Geological Society of America. He is also a member of the National Research Council Board on Earth Science and Resources and the Joint U.S.-Mexico Advisory Committee on Air Quality Improvement. Dr. Groat received his A.B. in geology at the University of Rochester, an M.S. in geology from the University of Massachusetts, and a Ph.D. in geology from the University of Texas at Austin.

The Director of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) at the Department of the Interior is responsible for all activities of the USGS including field offices located throughout the United States. The USGS encompasses the disciplines of biology, geology, hydrology and mapping and is the nation's primary source of information on geologic hazards, energy and mineral resources, geologic framework, and coastal and marine processes. In addition, USGS coordinates closely with Federal, State and local agencies as well as other public and private sector entities to ensure all information needs are met.

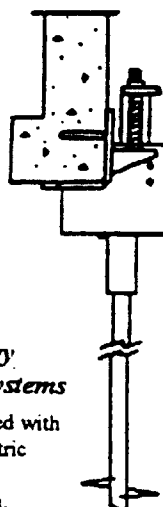
**DISTRIBUTOR FOR CHANCE® HELICAL PIER®
 UNDERPINNING SYSTEM
 AND THE STANLEY® COMPULEVEL™**

**THE ONLY ENGINEERED
 FOUNDATION SYSTEM
 LISTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:**

Building Codes:
BOCA
 Report No. 94-27
ICBO
 Report No. ER-5110
SBBCCI
 Report No. 9504

*Proven Helical Pier® Technology
 Now Used For Underpinning Systems*

Foundation Stabilization is accomplished with an engineering technology used by electric utilities for decades:
 Helical screw anchor foundation system.



*This Proven System Provides
 These Benefits:*

- Significantly lower cost compared to other stabilizing methods.
- Measurable capacity during installation.
- Predictable results: known capacity in specific soils.
- No stress on structure during installation.
- Fast installation: minimal site preparation.
- Installs in limited access areas.
- Provides support for failing retaining walls.
- Can be utilized in emergency shoring situations.

For more information on product, or how you can become a certified Chance® installing contractor in your area contact:

ADVANCED SUPPORT TECHNOLOGY, INC.
(805) 250-1688
 Serving Southern California

The Groundwater Resources Association of California (GRA) Annual Meeting is being held at the Walnut Creek Marriott Hotel, in Walnut Creek, California on Thursday and Friday, October 22 and 23, 1998. "California Groundwater, Effective and Efficient Usage for the Year 2000 and Beyond," is the theme of this year's meeting. The meeting brings together a variety of professionals working on groundwater problems and their solutions, presents new ideas, and directions for groundwater development, management, and protection. Concurrent Groundwater Resources and Environmental Contamination sessions will be offered over two days. Topics include reclaimed water issues, implications of impacted groundwater discharge into surface water, Lawrence Livermore National Lab's research on VOCs & MTBE, CALFED Bay-Delta Program and emerging groundwater resource issues in San Francisco Bay Area, perchlorate and new health standards, overview of class action lawsuit against water purveyors for potential distribution of impacted groundwater, effective approaches for Brownfields, site contamination investigative and remediation techniques, and sessions and panel discussions on legal and technical issues related to surface and groundwater interactions, and the adequacy of the California Water Code beyond the year 2000.

The meeting is being held in cooperation with the Bay-Delta Modeling Forum, California Department of Water Resources, Cal/EPA - Department of Toxic Substances Control, NGWA Association of Ground Water Scientists & Engineers, State Water Resources Control Board, and Water Education Foundation. For registration information contact Jim Ulrick of Ulrick and Associates at 510/848-2771 or e-mail: julrick@ulrick.com. Speaker information and registration forms can be found at GRA's Web Page: <http://www.grac.org>. Individuals interested in exhibiting at the Annual Meeting or making Poster Presentations can contact Harrison Phipps, GRA's Executive Director, at 530/758-3656 or e-mail: execdir@grac.org.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Adieu cut-and-paste! This month marks the debut of a fully computer-generated Section newsletter. In keeping with this development, your help in submitting articles, letters, and announcements in electronic form (i.e., via mailed diskette or e-mail) for the November newsletter (deadline is October 29, 1998) is greatly appreciated...a S. CA Section web site can't be far behind.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

MEMBERSHIP

John Whitney
(714) 647-0277

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

Robert Hollingsworth
(818) 889-0844
grover15@ix.netcom.com

FIELD TRIPS

Kim Bishop
(213) 343-2409

SHORT COURSES

Sue Tanges
(619) 442-8022

EDUCATION

Ali Tabidian
(818) 677-2536

PUBLICATIONS

Rudy Ruberti
(818) 785-2158

EDITOR

Stuart Michener
(310) 670-9221
nsam@pacbell.net or
michener@meredithboli.com

ZIP-A-DIP

Combination protractor, scales and
most efficient apparent dip calculator!

Only \$4.00 each, 2-10: \$3.50; 11+: \$3.00; 50+: \$2.50

Brochure describes ZIP-A-DIP and stratigraph.

PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS BELOW!

Brochure only ___ ZIP-A-DIP quantity ___ total cost ___

Name _____

Address _____

To: ZIP-A-DIP, 3891 Ashford Dr. Eugene, OR 97405

Solutions
Land
Water

Consulting Geohydrologist
Engineering Geologist
Water Quality Specialist

Sanford L. Werner

Registered Geologist
Certified Engineering Geologist

21031 Blythe Street, Canoga Park, CA 91304
(818) 998-8178



Association of Engineering Geologists
Southern California Section

Stuart R. Michener
AEG Newsletter Editor
1669 Wilson Ave.
Arcadia, CA 91006



FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

D & Construction Specialties, Inc.

LIC. # 681416



"Specializing In Hillside Drilling & Tough Hand Excavations"

* Test Pits/Test Borings

* Foundation Underpinning & Repair

* Caissions/Grade Beams

* Slope Repairs/Recompaction

* Demolition & Hauling

Friendly & Professional Service

(818) 767-8864