

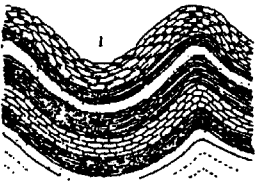
ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

Southern California Section

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

NEWSLETTER - APRIL 1999

SPECIAL ENGINEERING GEOLOGY STUDENT PRESENTATIONS!!



- Date:** Tuesday, April 13, 1999
- Location:** Stevens Steak House, 5332 Stevens Place, Commerce, CA
- Time:** Social Hour - 5:30 p.m. Dinner and Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
- Reservations:** Call (949) 253-5924 ext. 564
- Cost:** (NOTE NEW PRICING POLICY) \$20.00 per person for reservations made by 12:00 noon Monday April 12, \$25.00 at the door, and \$10.00 for students w/ valid i.d.). "No-shows" will be billed \$10.00.

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Martin Lieurance
(805) 499-5035

Speakers and Topics:

Our April Section meeting features oral presentations and poster presentations by several accomplished engineering geology students representing various Southern California universities and colleges. Additional student speakers may be added prior to the meeting. Please come out and support our student members -- they are the future of our organization!

Mitch Bornyasz, San Diego State University - "Towards a Multivariate Analysis of over 150 Dated Soils from Central California to Northern Baja California"

James Bunker, California State University - Los Angeles - "Application of the Oriented Core Drilling/Sampling Method to an Environmental Site Investigation"

David Thompson, California State University System - "Activity of the Santa Monica Fault"

Chris Walls, San Diego State University - "Uplift Gradient Along the Sierra Madre-Cucamonga Fault Zone, Los Angeles, California"

Last month's meeting saw a great turnout with over 100 AEG and ASCE members in attendance to hear Bill Goodman's talk on a ground improvement case study. Thanks to all who attended and made this a lively and interesting meeting. Next month will see our first section field trip in some time. Kim Bishop will lead a trip to several rock avalanche sites in the Mojave Desert with overnight accommodation at Zzyzx. Details about the trip and registration information can be found in this newsletter. Many thanks to Kim for his time and effort in organizing this trip. The weather should be ideal for a desert trip and I look forward to seeing a good showing of our members and their families. Nominations are now being accepted for a number of AEG awards; full details of the awards and the nomination procedures can be found in the newsletter. The AEG awards are very prestigious and I encourage you to consider any members of AEG that you consider worthy. Previous winners from the Southern California Section include Bob Hollingsworth, Kerry Cato, Dick Proctor, Roy Shlemon, and Jim Slosson. Let's see if Southern California can capture another award this year. In addition to the National AEG awards, nominations are now being accepted for the Southern California Section's "Martin L. Stout Scholarship." This scholarship is open to all student members of AEG. Application forms for the scholarship are available by e-mailing or phoning your name and address to me. The deadline for applications is October 1, 1999. The mid-year meeting of the Board of Directors of AEG will be held in Vicksburg, Mississippi in mid-April. One of the items to be discussed at the Board meeting will be the revision of the bylaws of the association to essentially delete Article 10. This section of the bylaws relates to expulsions, resignations, and suspensions of membership in the Association. The bylaws are published in the AEG Directory and I encourage you to read the Article and let me know your opinion prior to the meeting. Unless I hear a strong response to the contrary, I intend to support the deletion of Article 10. Finally, please note the new policy regarding the pricing of our dinner meetings. Due to price increases, we have been barely breaking even on our monthly meetings and rather than increase the cost for all attendees, we have introduced a tiered pricing structure. For those who make reservations prior to the deadline the price will be \$20, those who make reservations but do not show up for the meeting will be billed \$10, and if you show up at the meeting without a reservation you will be charged \$25. This policy is effective immediately.

- Wendy Schell

AEG Awards Committee

The Awards Committee is requesting your help in announcing that nominations currently are being accepted for 1999 awards candidates. The Awards Committee considers nominations for the following awards:

1. Douglas R. Piteau Outstanding Young Member Award - This award is presented to a Member or Associate Member who is age 35 or under, and has excelled in one or more of the following three areas: technical accomplishment, service to the Association, and service to the engineering geology profession. Last year's award went to Dr. Scott Kieffer.
2. Claire P. Holdredge Award - This award is presented for a publication by a Member(s) within the past 5 years that is judged to be an outstanding contribution to the engineering geology profession. This award is not necessarily conferred annually. Last year's award went to Dr. Syed Hasan.
3. Floyd T. Johnson Service Award - - This award is presented to a Member for outstanding active and faithful service to the Association over a minimum of 9 years. Contemporary Board members are not eligible until 1 year after leaving office. Nominations must be validated via endorsement by three Members having different Section affiliations. This award is not necessarily conferred annually. Last year's award went to Dr. John Williams.

The deadline for nominations to be considered for awards in 1999 is April 30, 1999. Please send nominations to Bill Cole, AEG Awards Committee Manager, c/o Cotton, Shires and Associates, Inc., 330 Village Lane, Los Gatos, CA 95030 (or to wfc@csageo.com).

CCGO GETS GEOLOGY BACK INTO BUILDING CODE

At the March 19th and 20th public hearings for the 2000 International Building Code, the California Council of Geoscience Organizations (CCGO) succeeded in ensuring the consideration of geologic factors in pertinent portions of the new code. Initially proposed by CCGO in October of 1998, the Structural Committee

voted to accept the addition of adding slope stability as a factor to be considered in foundation and soils investigations. CCGO also provided testimony against a proposal by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards which would have excluded geologists from performing basic components of geologic practice including the classification and investigation of soil, the number and types of borings in an investigation program, selection of appropriate drilling equipment, and overseeing boring and sampling programs. The consideration of slope stability in foundation and soils investigations, along with all other portions of the 2000 International Building Code, now goes before a vote of the memberships of the International Conference of Building Officials, the Building Officials and Code Administrators, and the Southern Building Code Congress International, Inc., at their Joint Annual Conference, to be held on September 12-17, 1999, in St. Louis, Missouri. The need for involvement in this process was necessitated by the nearly complete exclusion of geologic consideration from the 2000 International Building Code. This new code will replace the Uniform Building Code in the United States and serve as the benchmark for construction internationally. CCGO was represented at the hearings by Betsy Mathieson, Vice President.

CCGO also proposed a change in the definition of "active fault" which, as presented in the current version of the code, requires rupture in the past 11,000 years in addition to a slip rate of at least 1mm per year. CCGO's proposed elimination of the minimum slip rate requirement was opposed by the Code Resource Support Committee, on the grounds that the change was inconsistent with National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (NEHERP) guidelines. CCGO will consult with NEHERP regarding this issue.

The ICBO Structural Committee also rejected CCGO's proposal to reinstate a requirement for geologic observation during grading. Opposition testimony came from the National Association of Home Builders, who argued that the wording (from the 1994 Uniform Building Code) was too broad. One committee member provided a reference to IBC Section 1707.7, which has a requirement for a special inspection before placement of fill. Unfortunately, no requirement exists for inspection of cut slopes during grading.

SIGN-UP SHEET FOR AEG FIELD TRIP - SPRING 1999
BLACKHAWK AND EASTERN CALIFORNIA LONG-RUNOUT ROCK AVALANCHE DEPOSITS

When: May 15 & 16, 1999

Where: Blackhawk rock avalanche and Miocene rock avalanches of the Halloran Hills and Avawatz Mountains, eastern Mojave Desert. Overnight stay at ZZYZX Desert Studies Center near Baker.

Cost: \$70.00 (includes guidebook, lodging at ZZYZX, Saturday dinner, Sunday breakfast and lunch).

Transportation:

Private cars. Car-pooling is encouraged. High clearance vehicles recommended.

Lodging & Food: ZZYZX Desert Studies Center. The center has dormitory style bunkbeds. BRING sleeping bag, pillow, soap, and towel. Showers available. Saturday dinner & Sunday breakfast and lunch will be provided. BRING bag lunch for Saturday.

Purpose: To examine characteristics of long-runout rock-avalanche deposits and to consider proposed emplacement mechanisms for these enigmatic features.

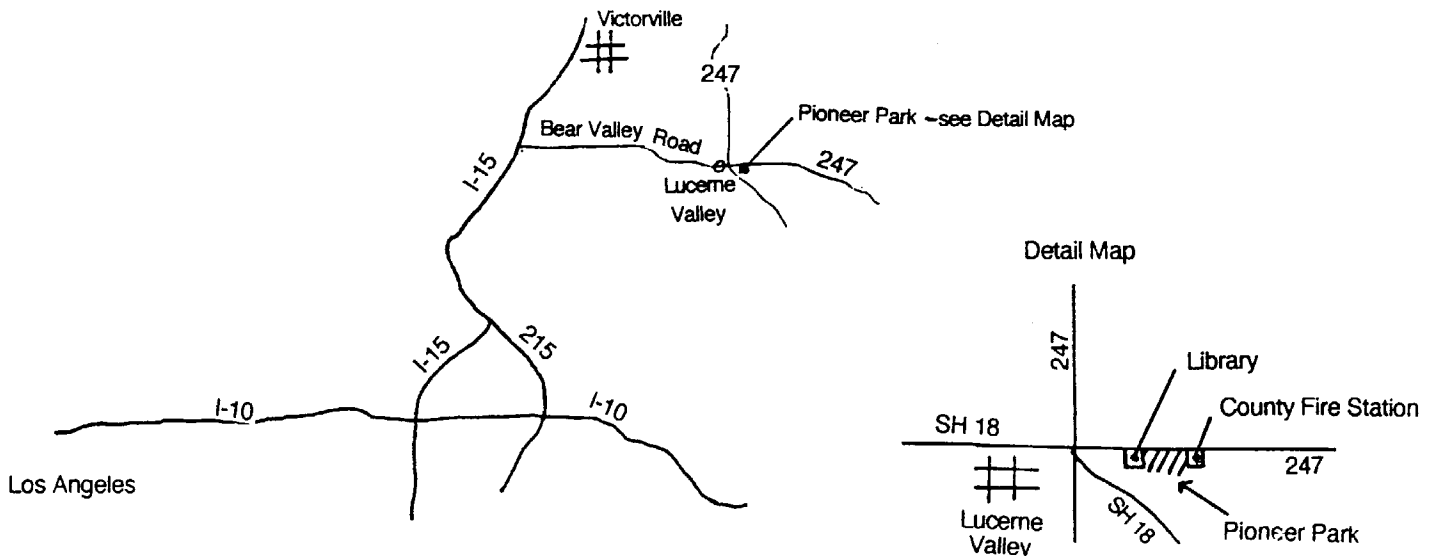
Background:

The Blackhawk landslide is a world-class example of a long-runout rock avalanche deposit. Emplaced approximately 17,000 years ago, the rock mass traveled 100 km/hr or faster down the northern side of the San Bernardino Mountains and across the flat-lying alluvial surface at the base range. The deposit covers an area measuring 7 km x 3 km and averages about 20 m thickness.

Intercalated in several terrestrial Miocene basins in eastern California are megabreccia deposits very similar to the Blackhawk deposit. Although the basins are disrupted by faulting, tilting, and erosion, the original extent of the deposits can be reconstructed. Such reconstructions show that many of the deposits dwarf the Blackhawk deposit in areal extent. The minimum dimensions of deposits in the Halloran/Silurian Hills is 40 km x 15 km.

The mechanics of long-runout rock avalanches are enigmatic. In order to achieve their runout distances, the rock avalanches must operate with unusually low apparent friction. In extreme cases, the apparent coefficient of friction is lower than 0.1. Many theories have been advanced to explain the low friction, but as yet, no consensus has been reached.

Meeting Place: We will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 19 in the parking lot of Pioneer Park at the east side of the town of Lucerne Valley (map below). To get there from the Los Angeles basin, take Interstate 15 toward Victorville. Exit on Bear Valley Road. Drive 23 miles to Lucerne Valley. Go through town to the east side to Pioneer Park on the south side of Highway 247. (The park is approximately 2 hours driving time from downtown Los Angeles.)



For further information, contact Kim Bishop at (323) 343-2409

(continued on other side)

To sign up for the trip, please fill in the following information and return with a check for \$70.00 payable to the Association of Engineering Geologists. Checks must be received by April 1, 1999. Available spots on the trip will be filled in the order that reservations are reserved. The trip is limited to 50 people.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone W _____ H _____

Company or other affiliation: _____

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING FOR FIELD TRIP PARTICIPANTS

The undersigned hereby acknowledges and agrees that:

1. _____ (herein referred to as "Participant") intends to participate in a field trip sponsored by the Association of Engineering Geologists (herein referred to as "AEG").
2. Participant agrees and understands that during such field trips he/she will be under the direction and control of the trip director approved by the AEG, and specifically agrees to comply with all reasonable directions and instructions by the trip director during the course thereof.
3. Participant understands and acknowledges that there are specific risks of injury to person and/or property that are associated with field trips, including risks related to travel hazards, terrain, weather, eating arrangements, and other circumstances. Participant specifically agrees to and voluntarily assumes the risk of such injuries, and hereby certifies and represents that Participant will arrange for appropriate personal accident/health insurance coverage during the period of each such field trip.
4. Participant understands and acknowledges that the AEG assumes no liability for personal injuries or property damages to participants or to third persons arising out of field trips, except to the extent that such liability is imposed by law. Participant agrees to indemnify and to hold the AEG harmless from any liability arising out of the acts or omissions of Participant during any such field trip, subject to any limitations or restrictions against such indemnification that are imposed by law.

Date: _____ Signed: _____

Participant

Send completed form with check to:

Kim Bishop
Department of Geological Sciences
California State University, Los Angeles
5151 State University Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90032

Important Note: Be sure to photocopy both sides of this sheet for your future reference.

For further information, contact Kim Bishop at (323) 343-2409

CCGO's final proposal was to replace the term "Registered Design Professional" with "Registered Professional" because many geologists do not consider themselves "design" professionals. However, Paul Sweeney, Executive Officer of the California State Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists, has provided information that California's Department of Consumer Affairs includes Registered Geologists in its list of design professionals, along with Professional Engineers, Architects, and Landscape Architects. As it became evident that the proposal would not be accepted, CCGO withdrew it in order to preserve the goodwill gained by our previous testimony. It should be noted, however, that CCGO's Work Plan for 1999 includes further research of the occurrence and appropriateness of the term "Registered Design Professional" in California statutes, regulations, and public policies.

During CCGO's testimony, an unanticipated alliance arose with a group of interior designers from several states and Canada who also spoke against the architects' proposal. A member of this group expressed surprise later that so few interior designers attended the hearings. Another responded, "there's a lot of apathy out there. If they knew the threat to their livelihood, they'd be here." That conversation could easily have been between two geologists. We hope CCGO's success at the hearings will inspire other geoscientists to turn out at such critical events in the future. Thank you to those of you who contributed background information and suggestions for the weekend's testimony.

**2ND ANNUAL SIERRA NEVADA RIVER
RAFTING AND GEOLOGY FIELD TRIP -
6/26/99 and 6/27/99**

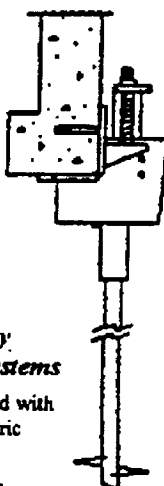
South Fork of the American River 1 hour east of Sacramento. Sponsored by the S.F., Sacramento, Great Basin, S. CA, and SW Sections of the AEG. AEG members & families: \$120/person (30% less than last year!). Non-members: \$140/person. Includes: Saturday raft trip from Chili Bar to Coloma, operated by American River Touring Association, Inc. Sunday field trip: *Geology of the Central Motherlode and Sierra Foothills Wine Country* Friday and Saturday night camping at Camp Lotus (bring your own gear) Meals provided by AEG and prepared by attendees. Reservations and Payment Due April 6. Space is limited. Mail to Betsy Mathieson, c/o Terratech, 1365 Vander Way, San Jose, CA 95112 (408/297-6969; e-mail BMathieson@post.harvard.edu). Make checks payable to AEG San Francisco Section. Include names of attendees (& children's ages), your e-mail address, and your phone number.

- | | |
|--|--|
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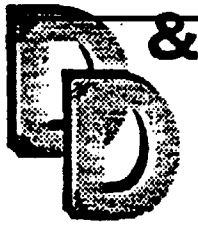
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