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ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS**
Southern California Section

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NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 1999

Monthly Dinner Meeting

Date: Tuesday, December 14, 1999
Location: Stevens Steak House, 5332 Stevens Place, Commerce, CA
Time: 5:30 p.m. - Social Hour; 7:00 p.m. - Dinner and Presentation
Reservations: Call (949) 253-5924, ext. 564 by 5:00 p.m., Friday, December 10th
Cost: \$25.00 per person with advance reservations, \$30.00 at the door, and \$12.00 for students w/ valid i.d. "No-shows" will be billed \$10.00.

Speaker: Joe Cota, GeoSoils, Inc.

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Subject: Newly Discovered Holocene Fault in Cabrini Canyon and Associated Deep-Seated Landslides, Verdugo Mountains, City of Burbank, Los Angeles County, California

A reverse fault was encountered along the southwestern front of the Verdugo Mountains, Burbank, California during the grading of 130 hillside homes. The fault was encountered during excavation for alluvial removals in a debris basin in Cabrini Canyon. Granitic bedrock is faulted against gravelly alluvium in the channel and has a minimum apparent displacement of approximately 22 feet. Two C-14 dates of wood fragments located near the bottom of the faulted alluvium yield dates of just over 8,000 yrs. b.p. We herein propose the name "Cabrini Fault" because of its discovery in Cabrini Canyon. Although we interpret the fault to be a range front fault along which at least some uplift of the mountains has occurred, there also is evidence for some strike-slip movement. The Cabrini Fault is located near the toe of slope of the mountain front. It is likely related to the Verdugo Fault, which has been mapped about ¼ miles out into the San Fernando Valley where it is concealed under the valley alluvium. The Verdugo Fault has long been suspected of being the main frontal fault of the Verdugos, however, this newly discovered fault appears to be more recently active and is also located much closer to the geomorphic toe of the mountain range. In addition to active faulting, we encountered several very large, previously unmapped landslides in massive granitic bedrock that may be related to the faulting. The toes of two of the landslides have overridden the recent alluvial deposits in the adjacent canyon bottoms. Mitigation consisted of buttressing of the landslides and establishing structural setbacks away from the fault zone.

Joe Cota has been a project geologist for GeoSoils Consultants, Inc. since 1987. Mr. Cota is in responsible charge of engineering geological field investigations for subdivisions, public projects, schools, etc. throughout southern California. In addition, Joe conducts environmental site assessments and remediation efforts. He is a past Chairman of the Southern California Section of AEG and currently serves on the Legislative Affairs Committee. In his "spare time", he is the Research Director and a founder of Natural Hazards Disclosure, Inc., a state-wide real estate disclosure reporting firm.

DESIREE DIER AWARDED
1999 MARTIN L. STOUT SCHOLARSHIP

The Southern California Section of the Association of Engineering Geologists is pleased to announce Ms. Desiree Dier as the recipient of the 1999 Martin L. Stout Scholarship. Ms. Dier is currently a graduate student at San Diego State University studying paleoseismology under Dr. Tom Rockwell. She completed her undergraduate studies at California State University - Sacramento. Throughout her academic career, Ms. Dier has been an active student member of AEG. She was the President and founding officer of the AEG Student Chapter at CSUS and is currently working to establish a student chapter at CSUSD. Thank you to all the student members who applied for the scholarship -- our congratulations go out to Ms. Dier as we wish her success with her future engineering geology career.

Wendy Schell - Chair, Southern California Section

CHAIR'S COLUMN

Last month saw a very well attended meeting in Sherman Oaks. Such good attendance figures are encouraging, however considerably less than half the people who attended had made a reservation. The membership is constantly requesting different meeting locations, but if we show up at a restaurant for the first time with a reservation error rate of over 100%, then it is less likely that the venue will be willing to work with us in the future. Do you think our clients would be thrilled with the prospect of us announcing on the day grading was about to start that we really needed twice as many geologists in the field to monitor? The next two dinner meetings will be held at Steven's Steak House in the City of Commerce and I expect to have the calendar for 2000 finalized for publication in next month's newsletter. Please make a note of the dates and locations of the meetings so you will have plenty of time to make reservations in the coming year.

At the December meeting we will be holding a fund-raising raffle of donated items. I encourage you to cleanout your office and come up with a publication, map, fossil, mineral, bottle of scotch, etc. to bring to the meeting. I look forward to seeing a wide range of interesting items for the raffle next week.

In this newsletter you will find a voting form seeking your opinion on whether the Martin L. Stout Scholarship fund should continue to be administered by the Southern California Section or whether the funds should be managed by the Engineering Geology Foundation of AEG. A discussion of this issue will be held at this month's meeting and Dottie Stout's opinion is reprinted elsewhere in this newsletter. If you have an opinion on

this issue and you have not sent a letter to the editor yet and are unable to attend December's meeting, please e-mail me (schellbw@aol.com) with a brief statement that I will read at the meeting. Please take a moment to vote and mail your ballot to me by the end of the year. Results of the vote will be announced at the January meeting.

On a sad note, Stuart Michener has decided to step down from his role as the Southern California Section newsletter editor. Stuart has worked extremely hard at getting the newsletter in all-electronic format and has kept his good humor through all the missed deadlines of the contributors (myself included). He has also been hard at work getting the section website going (this is still a work in progress). The section is now looking for a replacement editor. If you are interested in taking on this position or would like to recommend someone for the job, please contact either myself or Stuart as soon as possible (see 'wanted' notice in this newsletter).

During the last month three new members have joined AEG; Adrian Keller, Mark Osborne, and Michelle Johnson. Please introduce yourself to these members at our next meeting.

Lastly I want to thank everyone who has volunteered their valuable time during the last year to help the Southern California Section. Special thanks to Stuart Michener for his tireless work on the newsletter and Dave Seymour for organizing the interesting speakers we have enjoyed at our monthly dinner meetings.

Wishing you all a very safe and happy holiday season.

Wendy Schell - Chair, Southern California Section

REPORT ON OCTOBER BRGG MEETING

By: Robert E. Tepel

The California State Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists (BRGG) held a regularly scheduled meeting on October 22, 1999 in Fresno at the Picadilly Inn University. This report presents my notes and commentary on selected items. I do not represent any group, association, or business. The Board's new president, Sharon Jasek Reid, presided. She presented certificates of appreciation to Seena Hoose, who served as board president for the past four years, and to Karen Melikian, who served as vice president.

The most controversial item on the long agenda was a public hearing on the Board's proposed regulation to require that licensees provide clients and potential clients with prominent notification of their licensed status (i.e., the fact that they are licensed). The proposed regulation

BRGG MEETING (Cont'd)

was developed in response to a request from the Department of Consumer Affairs. It would have required licensees to place their license number on a variety of business forms (cards, letterhead, and invoices) and in advertisements. Posting of notice of licensure in one's place of business would also generally be required. A letter from the Southern California Section of the Association of Engineering Geologists was read into the record and its points were discussed by the Board. Additional testimony was provided Ted Smith, representing the California Division of Mines and Geology. John Williams presented his views on the potential implications of the proposed regulation for the academic community. Hugh Robertson, representing the Southern California Section of AEG was delayed by weather at Los Angeles International Airport and arrived after the public hearing was closed. Because of comments and testimony, the Board sent the proposed regulation back to staff and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for some reworking. It is likely that the TAC will work on the issues at its next meeting (November 5) and that the revised regulation will have a public hearing at the Board's December 2 meeting, preceded by a 15-day notice. For specific information, see the Board's web site or contact the BRGG office.

A draft of a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Board and the Professional Soil Scientists Association of California (PSSAC) was referred back to the TAC on the advice of the Board's legal counsel. Counsel felt that the MOU as written was too broad and would constitute an "underground regulation," a California no-no. That being the case, the structure of the agreement as an MOU was inappropriate and it would have to be restructured as a regulation to be viable. The tenor of the ensuing board discussion indicated that the TAC would not be able to complete its work on the matter until the first meeting after its November 5 meeting. (In my opinion, the MOU is important because in essence it defines what soil scientists can do that will not be considered to be the practice of geology).

The Board is scheduled for Sunset Review II before the Joint Legislative Sunset Review Committee on November 30, but this could be shifted to December 1. The Board's Sunset Review report was completed and submitted on time at the end of September. A massive staff effort was required in the last two weeks of September to rewrite the report to meet new guidelines distributed at the last minute. The Sunset Review report is now a public document and can be obtained from the Board office or (soon) viewed on the Board web site. The Board needs support in the sunset hearings and those interested in testifying should contact Paul Sweeney, the Board's Executive Officer.

The enforcement report indicated that, since the Board's August meeting, one citation has been finalized, three cases

were referred to County District Attorney offices, and two cases were referred to the state Attorney General's office. Five new cases have been received, and another five cases were referred to technical experts. Currently there are 43 open cases and they span all areas of specialization in the practice of geology and geophysics. The staff is working with UC Extension to develop training for the Board's technical experts.

The Examination Committee report recommended that the frequency of examinations for Geophysicists be reduced to once a year (in the fall). The reason is that very few people apply for the geophysicist examination (typically 6 or fewer per year), so unit costs are high. Board members expressed caution about starting this new schedule immediately by not giving the spring 2000 Geophysics exam. They recognized that some potential candidates might be counting on being able to take the exam in the spring. In other Examination Committee matters, a letter from a candidate complaining of poor conditions at an examination site was noted. (There have been other complaints of this type). Staff reviewed steps taken to remedy the situation, specifically a personal inspection of several facilities in southern California and selection of a new exam site.

The term of public member Paul Russ has expired and he has notified the Board that he will not serve during his one-year grace period. The position is an appointment of the Speaker of the Assembly.

Two somewhat intertwined topics were again discussed. These are 1) the need for a core curriculum that the Board could recommend to college and university geology departments as desirable to prepare students for the geologist licensure examination, and 2) the potential usefulness of an accreditation program for geology curricula. It is thought that both steps could result in candidates who are better prepared for the registered geologist examination, and who can provide higher quality geologic services to the people of California.

The next Board Newsletter to licensees will be mailed in early December. It will contain the final version of the "Standards of Professional Practice." This document is really a Code of Ethics, but the title follows a legislative directive.

The Board adopted a meeting schedule for 2000. It will meet six times (in even-numbered months), alternating between Sacramento and other locations throughout the state. The schedule will be posted on the web site. It is important for the profession to show an interest in BRGG activities, so please attend a meeting if you can.

Robert E. Tepel

NEWSLETTER EDITOR WANTED

Are you interested in: ♦ Helping serve your profession? ♦ Staying abreast of important technical and legislative developments? ♦ Desktop publishing? ♦ Making new friends and expanding your "network" of fellow geoscientists? Consider serving as Newsletter Editor for the nation's largest section of the AEG, the Southern California Section. Access to a PC, printer, and the Internet are helpful, but not mandatory. Please contact Stuart Michener at (310) 670-9221 ext. 22 or via e-mail at nsam@pacbell.net for details.

SUNSET REVIEW UPDATE

By: David Ebersold, S CA Section AEG Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee

On November 30, 1999, the Joint Legislative Sunset Review Committee (JLSRC) held a hearing to review the Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists (BRGG). This is the board responsible for registration of geologists and geophysicists in California - the one who issues us our licences. State law requires that every four years all boards organized under the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) go through this review process. The purpose of this review is to determine if a given board is necessary for the protection of consumers and the public's health and safety. If the answer is no, then the board is not continued and is allowed to "sunset."

During the last review four years ago, the JLSRC made a number of recommendations for improvement of the BRGG. At the hearing, the JLSRC recognized the BRGG's substantial progress on these items and commended them for taking action. Among the items noted were the adoption of a strategic plan, development of a code of ethics, adoption of a criterion referenced pass point on exams rather than an arbitrary 70% pass rate, and the adoption of a national exam that will encourage comity with the other 25 or so states that have registration for geologists. Regardless of how you personally feel about these items, the legislature viewed them a positive steps forward. It was clear that without them the BRGG would have been subject to the same open hostility that was conveyed upon the engineer's board, which was reviewed immediately prior.

David Ebersold (AEG-SC), Julia Turney (AEG-Sac), and Harrison Phipps (CCGO) testified in support of licensure and the board. "They were great" said AEG Legislative Advocate Judy Wolen, who also attended the hearings. BRGG Member Seena Hoose, BRGG President Sharon Reid, and BRGG Executive Officer Paul Sweeny testified for the Board and did a great job in the face of some tough questions. Sitting on the committee were Senator's Figueroa (Chair) and Johannessen and Assemblymembers Alquist, Honda and Leach. Assemblymember Lynn Leach will be taking the place of Bill Campbell on this committee. Johannessen and Alquist asked a lot of questions and Johannessen made it clear he favored licensure but still could not understand why the Board activities could not be done by a bureau under DCA. This is the key issue to address.

From here, the JLSRC will provide additional comments to the BRGG, which will then have 45 days to respond in writing. The next hearing will be in March, at which time the JLSRC is expected to make a recommendation to either continue the BRGG or recommend that its licensure function be placed under a DCA Bureau. "I think we have a lot of work to do at the first of the year" stated Wolen. She has already initiated AEG's strategy for the coming months and is working in close coordination with the California Council of Geoscience Organization's Executive Director, Harrison Phipps. Expect to see an increasing amount of activity after the first of the year, with a letter writing campaign at the end of February. Members will also be asked to meet with local legislative staff in the coming months.

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE STOUT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

By: Dottie Stout

It does make sense to have the Stout Scholarship administered by the Foundation since the tax deduction status would certainly make donations more appealing. While initially the committee make-up would have a southern California flavor, over time, the committee make-up would change and that does not appear to pose problems for Martin's own education, training, and teaching were broad. While his heart, soul, and roots were based in southern California, engineering geology is ubiquitous and other sites in the nation and the world became his arena for comparison and discovery. His life was dedicated to stretching all students and helping them prepare for making responsible decisions that affect the well-being of where they lived, worked, and played. His philosophy meant "never becoming complacent in preparing students, for the world is a constantly expanding and changing place".

While home is still in Whittier and return has not been as frequent as I would wish, it has been a wonderful challenge to spend this last year at the National Science Foundation where many decisions are made to foster progress in the geosciences. My position as a Program Director is in the Division of Undergraduate Education handling proposals for equipment, curricula, materials, technology, etc. that foster innovation and change in learning geoscience.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SALARY SURVEY UPDATE

Thanks to all of you who responded to the salary survey so far. As of November 29, 1999, we have received 49 responses, which equals about 10 percent of our Section membership. In order to make the survey as meaningful as possible, we **NEED MORE RESPONSES**. Please take a minute to photocopy, complete, and return the enclosed survey form, and encourage your colleagues to do likewise.

Association of Engineering Geologists
Southern California Section

Referendum on Management of the Martin L. Stout Scholarship

Instructions:

Please photocopy this page, circle one of the following two choices, and return by mail to the following address by December 31, 1999:

Wendy Schell, Chairman
Association of Engineering Geologists
3775 Carmel Ave
Irvine, CA 92606

An open discussion of this issue will be held at the December dinner meeting of the Southern California Section to be held at the Steven's Steak House on 12/14/99.

I would like the Martin L. Stout Scholarship to be administered by the Engineering Geology Foundation of the Association of Engineering Geologists.

YES

NO

**ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION
1999 SALARY SURVEY OF PRACTICING
GEOLOGISTS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

Current Annual Base Salary: _____ (Please do not include bonuses or vehicle allowances)

Years of Experience:

0 to 2: _____ 2 to 5: _____ 5 to 10: _____ 10 to 15: _____ 15 to 20: _____ >20: _____

Registration (Check all that apply):

RG: _____ CEG: _____ CHG: _____ GP: _____

Current Type of Employment (Check One):

Private Consultant: _____
Consulting Firm: _____
Education: _____
Public Agency: _____

For Consulting Firms Enter Number of Employees (Includes all employees, not just geologists):

2 to 10: _____ 10 to 20: _____ 20 to 50: _____ 50 to 200: _____ 200 to 500: _____ >500: _____

Job Location:

Enter Name of City and County: _____

The purpose of this survey is to provide an approximation of salaries for practicing geologists in the southern California area. Please forward this survey to any of your colleagues and encourage them to fill it out and send it in. The results of the survey will be posted in upcoming newsletters and web pages for the various geological societies in southern California.

Please photocopy, complete, and mail the survey to:

**AEG Survey
c/o David C. Seymour
26276 Buscador
Mission Viejo, CA 92692**

All information will be kept confidential. In order to keep the information anonymous please do not add your name to the form or envelope.

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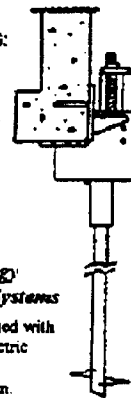
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