

# ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

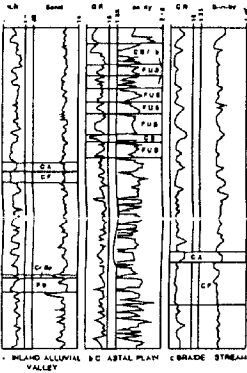
Southern California Section

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

## NEWSLETTER - MAY 1999

### MONTHLY DINNER MEETING

- Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 1999
- Location:** Luminaries Restaurant, 3500 West Ramona Blvd., Monterey Park, CA (323) 268-4363 [NOTE NEW LOCATION -- Close to the Cal State L.A. Campus and Southeast of the Intersection of I-10 and I-710]
- Time:** Social Hour - 5:30 p.m. Dinner and Meeting -6:30 p.m.
- Reservations:** Call (949) 253-5924 ext. 564
- Cost:** \$25.00 per person for reservations made by 12:00 noon Monday May 10, \$30.00 at the door, and \$15.00 for students w/ valid i.d.). "No-shows" will be billed \$10.00. [NOTE NEW PRICING POLICY]
- Speaker:** Kim Bishop, Ph.D., Department of Geosciences, California State University - Los Angeles



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- Topic:** Newly Recognized Mega-Landslide Deposits of the Owens Valley, Eastern California

Erosionally exhumed Miocene basins throughout southern California contain intercalated megabreccia deposits of mega-landslide origin. Given that the Owens Valley of eastern California is a large, active extensional basin with steep boundaries, it would not be surprising to find recent mega-landslide deposits within the valley. Indeed, seven large deposits were recognized last summer. Areal extent of these features range between 6.5 sq. km. and 45 sq. Km From north to south, the deposits are informally named the Tungsten Hills, Bishop, Big Pine, Poverty Hills, Independence, Olanca, and Little Lake landslides. All are believed to have been triggered catastrophically (probably by earthquakes) and , with the exception of the Little Lake landslide, are considered to be long run-out rock avalanches (sturzstroms) that traveled further than would be expected assuming conventional frictional sliding.

Kim Bishop is a native Californian, who has resided in southern California for the past 23 years. He obtained a bachelors degree in Engineering Geology from UCLA in 1978, a Masters degree in Civil Engineering from CSUN in 1985, a Masters degree in Geology from CSULA in 1989, and a Ph.D. in Structural Geology from USC in 1994. With the State of California, he is a Registered Geologist, a Certified Engineering Geologist, and a Registered Civil Engineer. During the 1980s, he was employed in engineering geology consulting for 4 years with Geosoils, Inc., and then for 4 years with Pacific Soils Engineering, Inc. for the past 6 years, he has served as a faculty member at CSULA teaching Structural Geology and Engineering Geology.

## CHAIR'S COLUMN

The Board of Directors of AEG met in Vicksburg, Mississippi on the weekend of April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 1999. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, one of the items on the agenda was revision of the AEG bylaws to delete Article 10 relating to the expulsion of members etc. The motion to remove Article 10 passed, but only after considerable discussion. Many board members felt that maintaining a high standard of professionalism and geologic expertise are important aspects of AEG membership. With the bylaws as they stood, AEG was technically able to expel a member for various misconduct, but legally it was almost impossible to accomplish without litigation. As a result of the discussion on this issue, a committee was formed to investigate the different sides to this issue and provide recommendations regarding possible bylaw changes to put some teeth back into our Association. The committee consists of the Chairs of the San Francisco and Sacramento sections as well as myself. Any input from you on this issue will be appreciated.

Another bylaw change that was implemented during the meeting was revision of the membership classifications. This was necessary to remove ambiguities in the bylaws and create a new membership classification that had been unofficially available for some time. The new classification is "Co-member" which is available to two full members that have the same permanent address (i.e. spouses, siblings etc.). A co-member will have all the same rights as a full member but will not receive the publications (on the assumption that the other member won't spirit them away before the co-member gets a chance to read them!).

Executive Director of AEG, Chris Mathewson, gave the board a demonstration of the new features of the AEG web page (address: <http://www.aegweb.org>). With the new member number and password that you received with your confirmation 1999 dues, you will be able to access the members only portion of the web site and update your information etc. If you have not received your password and membership number yet, it means you haven't paid your dues! Chris issued a reminder that the password is case sensitive so if you tried to access the page and couldn't, this could be the problem.

At last month's meeting, members requested improved legislative action from our section. In response to your requests, I have created a new legislative committee. The committee will consist of myself, our Vice Chair Dave Seymour, Dave Ebersold, who will chair the committee, and Chris Sexton. All communications from our lobbyist in Sacramento will be sent to each member of the committee for discussion and the formulation of our section's policy. Whenever possible, issues needing an opinion by our section will be discussed in the newsletter before a decision is made, however, on occasion, time may not permit us to bring the item before the membership.

In the next newsletter we will begin to publish a list of names of members who have become lost from our section due to address changes, etc. We would like to bring our lost members back into the fold so if you know of someone who hasn't been receiving the newsletter or Journal, please have them call or e-mail me and we'll try to sort it out.

I will be unable to attend the May meeting or field trip as I will be on vacation, but I look forward to seeing you again at our June meeting which will be held in Orange County.

Cheers,

Wendy

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## ARE YOU A WINNER IN THE ASBOG REGISTERED GEOLOGIST SWEEPSTAKES?

(This note represents only the personal opinions of the author, who is a member of the ASBOG Council of Examiners). Two hundred California Registered Geologists will be asked to participate in a very important survey in May. ASBOG, the National Association of State Boards of Geology, is asking 200 Registered Geologists in every ASBOG member state to respond to a Job Task Analysis Questionnaire. If you are lucky enough to get one of these surveys, which are distributed on a random basis, you are in a very powerful position; your answers will define what tasks Registered Geologists do. These answers and your opinions about how important these tasks actually are in protecting the public will guide the ASBOG Council of Examiners in writing questions and creating problems for the ASBOG Registered Geologist examination. The bottom line: With your participation, a broad segment of the working level members of the profession of geology will control the scope and content of the national licensure examination. Remember, California will start giving this examination soon as its RG exam.

The survey questionnaire is long, but not difficult if you study the instructions and get into the swing of it. Feel free to add your own constructive comments (on separate sheets, please) about what is good and what is off-target or missing from the task lists. The California message is needed if for no other reason than we have more and more varied engineering geology practice challenges than any other state. California geologists can contribute prime insights and ideas on the exam content --- if we don't, the exam will not be as good and fair as it can be.

A Job Task Analysis to guide licensure exam content comes along once every five years or so. ASBOG is doing the right thing by asking for your input. ASBOG and its Council of Examiners do not want to develop the licensure examination in a vacuum. The goal is to have realistic exams, and the goal can only be achieved with dedicated participation from the profession. As a member of the ASBOG Council of Examiners, I am asking you to take pride in your profession and to respond with thorough consideration if you win the ASBOG sweepstakes and get a survey in the mail.

- Robert E. Tepel

## TRENCH PARTY

We would like to invite members of the paleoseismic community to visit our trench located within the Cholame segment of the San Andreas Fault (south of Parkfield and north of the Carrizo Plain) on Saturday, May 8. Because the site is located on private property and behind locked gates, we are planning to have two meeting times, 10am and 2pm at the mini mart in California Valley to lead people back to the site. 4WD is recommended to get back to the site although a sturdy, high clearance 2WD can get in if the roads are dry. Please email [emstone@asu.edu](mailto:emstone@asu.edu) (or [ramon.arrowsmith@asu.edu](mailto:ramon.arrowsmith@asu.edu) after May 2<sup>nd</sup>) if you want to visit and don't have an appropriate vehicle so we know how many people we will have to shuttle in. Also email the same address if neither of the meeting times fit your schedule. We may add another meeting time if there is enough interest. The Cholame segment of the San Andreas Fault (SAF) is the transitional zone between the Parkfield segment to the north (containing both creeping and locked zones) and the locked Carrizo segment on its southern end. The last historic earthquake through this segment was the 1857 Fort Tejon earthquake. The goal of this investigation is to find a record of the penultimate rupture to compare the behavior of the Cholame segment to that established for the Carrizo. For more information about this project, download our 1998 SCEC progress report <http://activetectonics.la.asu.edu/Cholame/ArrowsmithSCECAR.pdf>.

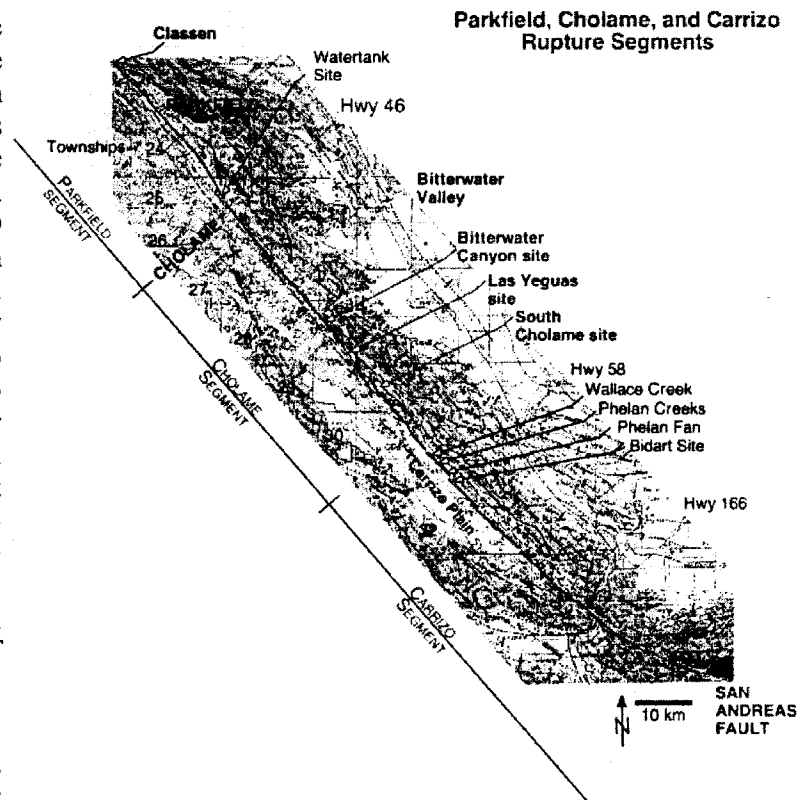


Figure courtesy of Beth Stone, Dept. of Geology, ASU

- Beth Stone, Ramon Arrowsmith, and Lisa Grant

**GROUNDWATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION (GRA) SHORT COURSE  
ANNOUNCEMENT - PRINCIPLES OF GROUNDWATER FLOW  
AND TRANSPORT MODELING**

May 11-13, 1999, California State University, Sacramento or  
June 28-30, 1999, California State University, Fullerton  
Instructors: Graham E. Fogg, Ph. D., and Thomas Harter, Ph. D.

This course is going to be limited to 24 students per location. Price ranges from \$675 to \$750, depending if you are a GRA member and date of registration for the course. Course fee includes course handouts, lunches and individual uses of a computer. If you are interested, contact GRA to secure a spot. For more information, contact GRA at [admin@grac.org](mailto:admin@grac.org) or Harrison Phipps at (530)758-3656 voice/fax. You can also download more information from GRA's web page at <http://www.grac.org>.

The use of computer modeling tools has become a standard practice in many groundwater investigations. Groundwater resources evaluation, groundwater quality assessment, contamination site assessment and remediation, environmental impact review, and other groundwater related activities increasingly rely on computer models as a means of understanding groundwater flow and the fate of contaminants in the subsurface. This short course will introduce the conceptual principles and practical aspects of groundwater modeling in an intuitive and accessible manner to professional consultants, technical personnel in engineering/geology firms and irrigation/water districts, regulatory agency specialists and managers, and those in the legal community specialized on groundwater issues. The course assumes that participants are familiar with the basic principles of groundwater dynamics. The course objective is to demystify the use of groundwater models by providing a solid understanding of the principles, methods, assumptions, and limitations of groundwater models, and hands-on experience with the planning, preparation, execution, presentation, and review of a modeling project. The first half of the course reviews the concepts of groundwater flow and transport, finite difference and finite element methods, and various available software for groundwater flow and transport modeling, pre- and postprocessing. The second half of the course features various exercises based on the USGS MODFLOW flow model and a compatible transport model. Exercises include site-specific models as well as basin/watershed wide models. At the end of the course, participants should be able to professionally plan, supervise, and/or review groundwater modeling projects.

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**DEADLINE FOR JUNE  
NEWSLETTER  
SUBMITTALS IS  
MAY 26TH.**

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**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**DIRECTOR, OREGON DEPARTMENT OF  
GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES**

The State of Oregon is seeking a Director for the department of Geology and Mineral Industries located in Portland. The Department is responsible for developing a geological and engineering understanding of natural hazards and applying this information to mitigate the risk of earthquakes, landslides, floods, and tsunamis. The department is the leading State regulatory agency for mining, oil and gas, and geothermal energy exploration, production, and reclamation. Current salary is up to a maximum of \$78,672 a year. For complete position description and Application Information Form, contact Laura Trevizo, Recruitment and Career Services, 155 Cottage Street NE, Salem, OR. 97310, (503) 378-3040. Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on May 14, 1999.

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Association of Engineering Geologists  
Southern California Section

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