




**ASSOCIATION  
OF  
ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS**  
Southern California Section

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

**NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 1999**

**MONTHLY DINNER MEETING**

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- Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 1999  
**Location:** Radisson Valley Center Hotel Los Angeles, 15433 Ventura Boulevard, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403 (*SEE DIRECTIONS ON PG. 5*)  
**Time:** 6 p.m. - Social Hour; 7 p.m. - Dinner; 8 p.m. - Presentation  
**Reservations:** Call (949) 253-5924 ext. 564 by 12 noon, Monday, November 8th  
**Cost:** \$25.00 per person with advanced reservations, \$30.00 at the door, and \$12.00 for students w/ valid i.d. "No-shows" will be billed \$10.00. Raffle tickets \$1.00. Hotel parking \$3.50. Free parking on surrounding side streets.  
**Speaker:** **Robert O. Thomas, L.A. County Department of Public Works**  
**Subject:** **Los Angeles County Review Guidelines in Relationship to CDMG Special Publication SP117**

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Based on the Los Angeles County Building Code, 1994 U.B.C., California Seismic Hazard Mapping Regulations (Article 10), and DMG Special Publication SP 117, the Department of Public Works, Land Development Division, Geology and Soils Review Section is mandated to review and administer all proposed subdivision, grading, and building plans in relationship to liquefaction and seismically induced landslide hazards. The Geology and Soils Section has specific interpretations, policies, and guidelines in relationship to SP 117 and its effect on the Southern California geotechnical and building industries. The discussion will include the geologic aspects of specific County review guidelines and the County's interpretation basis relating to seismically induced landslides and liquefaction hazards. A majority of the discussion will concentrate on the liquefaction aspects of SP 117.

Robert Thomas is a District Geologist for the County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, currently assigned to the east portion of Los Angeles County. A District Geologist reviews and approves subdivision concepts and grading and building plans in relationship to the geology of a specific area in conjunction with the Building and Safety Division of the County. His review work has included a range of projects, from single-family residences to large subdivisions and commercial developments. The East County District includes an area from Mt. Baldy to Catalina Island, which encompasses the San Gabriel Mountains and Valley, the Los Angeles Basin, the South Bay area, and the Palos Verdes Hills. The East County area includes many contract cities which utilizes the geology and soils services of the County. Prior to his assignment in the East County, Bob was the District Geologist for the Malibu and the Santa Monica Mountains area for 12 years. Bob has worked for the County Geology Section for 20 years and has worked in the geotechnical industry for 24 years.

Bob has been involved with numerous landslide investigations as a consultant and reviewer, including the Abalone Cove Slide, Flying Triangle Landslide, and the Big Rock Slide. He was recently involved in formulating the County's policies regarding implementation of the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act. Currently, his review work involves large commercial and industrial projects which are threatened by potential liquefaction hazards. Since the implementation of the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act, he has disseminated information to the geotechnical public regarding liquefaction studies, DMG Special Publication 117, and county policies.

## CHAIR'S COLUMN

Since I last wrote in the newsletter, I attended the AEG Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah at the end of September. Attendance at the meeting was approximately 475 and all signs point to the meeting being profitable. Attendance from the Southern California Section was very good and I heard many excellent presentations from our section members.

During the meeting, I had the opportunity to meet with the Engineering Geology Foundation regarding the Martin L. Stout Scholarship Fund. The Foundation administers several scholarships on behalf of AEG and in the last several months John Williams, the chairman of the Foundation board, has been in contact with me about the possibility of the Foundation administering the Stout Fund which is now run by the Southern California Section. The purpose of my meeting with the Foundation was to find out how the administration of the scholarship fund would change if the section were to decide to transfer the fund to the Foundation. The major advantage to having the Foundation take over the fund is that, due to the tax status of the Foundation, all donations are tax deductible. At present, any donations designated for the fund come under the tax status of the Association and therefore are not tax deductible. Since its inception, the scholarship fund has received limited donations, with administration by the Foundation the potential for increasing the size of the fund (and hence the size and/or number of scholarships awarded) is dramatically increased. In the last year the Foundation raised a total of approximately \$7,000 for the various funds. You may have noticed the scholarship funds listed on your 2000 dues statement so you can elect to make a contribution at the same time you pay your annual dues. If the Stout Scholarship were administered by the foundation, then it would also be listed on the dues form.

The major issue voiced by Southern California Section members regarding the transfer of the fund to the Foundation has been whether the section would lose control over awarding the scholarship and the selection criteria. In response to this, the Foundation board explained that the fund would be administered by a committee, the chair of which would be appointed by the Foundation board (initially on the recommendation of the Southern California Section). The make-up of the committee would be determined by the Southern California Section (for example; Dottie Stout as Chair, and the Southern California Section Chair, Vice Chair, and Past Chair). The committee would be responsible for advertising the scholarship, vetting the applicants, and making a nomination to the board for the recipient(s) of the scholarship. The board would then have the final vote on whether the committee's nomination is accepted.

It is my understanding that the next Foundation board meeting is in January and I'd like to have a consensus from the section by that time so that we don't potentially have a transfer to the foundation in the middle of the application process for the next year's scholarship. In next month's newsletter, I will include a voting form that will give you a choice about whether you want the section to retain the scholarship or transfer the administration to the Foundation. If you have an opinion you'd like to share with the membership on this matter, you may either write a short letter to be included in the next newsletter (e-mail your comments to the newsletter editor at [nsam@pacbell.net](mailto:nsam@pacbell.net)) or

plan to attend the December dinner meeting on 12/14/99 at Steven's Steak House when we will have an open discussion on the issue. As always, I am available to discuss this issue with you (949-653-7150) and I am sure Roy Shlemon (a Foundation board member) will also be happy to discuss this with you further. I have been in contact with Dottie Stout about the Foundation's proposal and hopefully she will have comments that can be published in next month's newsletter.

After the technical sessions of the annual meeting, the AEG board meeting was held. One of the major issues that came out of the board meeting was that a dues increase is proposed for next year unless membership of the Association increases. Rex Upp (the Past Treasurer, present Vice President of the Association) has indicated that he will propose a dues increase unless there is an increase in AEG membership of 200 by the April 2000 board meeting. Based on the membership of the Southern California Section, we are responsible for getting approximately 30 new members to join the Association. So if you want to do your part to keep our dues down, I challenge you to bring a new member into the fold! New, simpler, shorter membership forms were unveiled at the annual meeting which should encourage those who (like me) put off joining because the we couldn't spare all of our vacation time to dedicate to filling out the old four page application form! Membership forms are available at every dinner meeting, from me, from Membership Chair John Whitney, or can be downloaded from the AEG website at [www.aegweb.org](http://www.aegweb.org). I strongly recommend that all new applications are mailed directly to me at 3775 Carmel Ave, Irvine, CA 92606 so that we can get new members on the section newsletter mailing list without delay. Any applications that come to me will also be eligible for a voucher good for a free dinner meeting as our welcome gift.

In the last week we have welcomed six new members into the Southern California Section. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to these new members at our dinner meetings:

- Tom Rockwell            SDSU/Earth Consultants Intl.
- Marlon Jones            Geosoils Consultants Inc.
- Todd Tyler                Geosoils Consultants Inc.
- Lance Putnam            Geosoils Consultants Inc.
- Ron Castruita            Geosoils Consultants Inc.
- Martin Jackson           Geosoils Consultants Inc.

Remember to bring some extra cash to our November meeting to buy raffle tickets. Thanks to a kind donation by Joe Cota of Geosoils Consultants Inc. of Van Nuys, we have a pristine copy of Kew's 1924 "Geology and Oil Resources of a Part of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, California" to raffle off at the meeting.

Now is also the time to start thinking of items to bring to our December meeting for our holiday raffle. Fossil, rock and mineral specimens, maps, books, field equipment and fine Scotch are all excellent choices, let your imagination run wild! Finally, congratulations to Southern California Section member Mike Hart on receiving the Geological Society of America, Engineering Geology Division Meritorious Service Award.

Cheers - Wendy Schell

**ASTRONAUT/GEOLOGIST HARRISON SCHMITT  
LECTURE - NOVEMBER 10, 1999**

On Wednesday November 10, 1999, Dr. Harrison Schmitt the geologist/astronaut from Apollo 17 will speak at 6 p.m. at Millikan High School in Long Beach. All are invited. He will tell us about his moon trip and his views for the future. The talk is free to everyone because of the generous contributions of: The Boeing Company, the Crail-Johnson Foundation, Pacbell, THUMS Long Beach Company, Los Angeles Basin Section of the Society of Petroleum Engineers, Los Angeles Basin Geologic Society, and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

**NOVEMBER MEETING RAFFLE PRIZE**

A copy of "Geology and Oil Resources of a Part of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, California", by William S. Kew (1924) will be raffled to a lucky geologist at the November dinner meeting. This highly sought-after publication is in very good condition, and comes complete with a fine copy of a large colored geologic map of the region. Word has it that this reference has become quite a collector's item, and is valued at approximately \$200.00 to \$250.00. Thanks to Joe Cota for this fine raffle prize.

**CCGO RALLIES SUPPORT FOR GOOD  
BUILDING CODES**

(Press Release, October 14, 1999)

Geologists are solidly involved in the building code development process again, to the amazement of other high-profile professions and with the congratulations of numerous code officials. In mid-September, the California Council of Geoscience Organizations was joined in testifying at the 2000 International Building Code Final Action Hearings in St. Louis by representatives of the Association of Engineering Geologists and the American Institute of Professional Geologists.

We narrowly defeated a proposal by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards to change 38 code sections to permit only architects or professional engineers to do the work of all registered design professionals, including geologists. The architects' comprehensive proposal was supported by building officials from cities that included Los Angeles, Pasadena, and Fremont, California, who argued that to protect public safety, buildings must be designed only by architects or engineers.

CCGO testified that a building designed by an architect or an engineer is only as stable as the site it sits on, only as good as the underlying geology. We emphasized that the

proposed changes would prohibit geologists from carrying out their role in protecting public safety.

In the year since CCGO became involved in the code development process by submitting four proposed changes to the 2000 IBC, we have had slope stability added as a required consideration in building site investigations; built alliances with building officials, structural engineers, and interior design professionals; obtained admissions from architects' groups that they have no business performing geologic work; drawn two international geologic organizations back into the code development process; and reserved geologic work for geologists. Following CCGO's lead, geoscientists now have an opportunity to reverse some of the recent deletions of geologic requirements from the code and to benefit from our newly acquired stature as members of the code development community.

For further information, contact CCGO Code Development Committee Chair Betsy Mathieson: Bmathieson @post.Harvard.edu, or CCGO President David Ebersold: David.B.Ebersold@mw.com or (626) 568-6943.

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SALARY SURVEY**

Want to know what you're worth in today's marketplace for earth scientists? Do you, as an employee, think you're not getting paid your due? Or do you, as an employer/manager, think you're paying your employees too much? If these questions interest you, please take a minute to complete and return the Salary Survey on the following page. The results will be published in an upcoming section newsletter. To no one's surprise, the "quality" of the survey will be determined by the number of responses that we receive, so please do your part. Thanks to Section Vice Chair Dave Seymour for getting the "ball rolling."

**AERIAL PHOTOS OF SURFACE RUPTURE --  
M 7.1 HECTOR MINE EARTHQUAKE**

Our friends at the U.S. Geological Survey, Pasadena Office, recently updated their web site to include reports and aerial photographs of surface deformation associated with the October 16<sup>th</sup> Hector Mine earthquake. Unlike the Landers event a few years ago, much of the area of interest to geologists lay within a restricted-access military installation. Check out the many high-resolution aerial photographs, including evidence of apparent offset as great as 4.7 meters, at the following URL:

<http://www-socal.wr.usgs.gov/hector/photos.html>

**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 fill

Please fill out the survey and send it in a stamped self addressed envelope to:

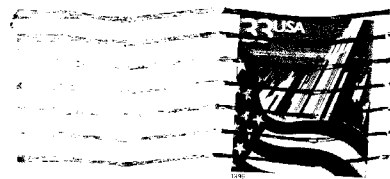
AEG Survey  
c/o David C. Seymour  
26276 Buscador  
Mission Viejo, CA 92692

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





*Association of Engineering Geologists*  
*Southern California Section*



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