



**ASSOCIATION
OF
ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS**
Southern California Section

*"Serving Professionals in Engineering, Environmental, and Groundwater
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NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2000

Monthly Dinner Meeting

Date: Tuesday, January 11, 2000
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, January 7, 2000
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: Gary Rasmussen

Subject: Hector Mine Earthquake

Gary Rasmussen will give a presentation on the 7.1 Mw Hector Mine earthquake, which occurred at 2:47 am on October 16, 1999, approximately 47 miles east-southeast of Barstow. Other geologists from various government agencies may also assist Gary with the presentation. The Hector Mine earthquake occurred on the Lavic Lake fault, which is one of several northwest right-lateral strike-slip faults within the Mojave shear zone. Gary along with geologists from CDMG, USGS and SCEC flew over and photographed the ground rupture that ripped across the Twenty-Nine Palms Marine Base. The presentation will include several of the aerial photographs along with data regarding the fault.

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**L.A. COUNTY GEOLOGY REVIEW
GUIDELINES – CORRECTION/UPDATE**

By: David Poppler

The Engineering Geology portion of the Guidelines referenced in the AEG Newsletter at the beginning of the year as being available at the Los Angeles County's Department of Public Works' Web site (<http://dpw.co.la.ca.us/med/maunal.pdf>) was an outdated 1997/98 version and the inadvertent error has been corrected. As guidelines for County engineering geology reviewers, they will be useful to the consultants preparing reports being submitted to the County. These geology guidelines and associated procedures contained in them represent decades of experience and input of County Geologists since 1959 when the first geologist was hired. Mike Montgomery, my predecessor since my retirement this year, now the County Geologist relative to private development in LA County will probably give them his own "spin".

CHAIR'S COLUMN

Welcome to the 21st Century! I hope you all had a very happy and safe holiday season and wish you a very prosperous New Year.

Responses to the referendum on the Martin L. Stout Scholarship are still coming in as I write this, but the votes are strong in favor of the fund being administered by the Engineering Geology Foundation of AEG. I will announce the final decision at the dinner meeting. Thank-you to everyone who returned their ballot, input from our membership is very important to the smooth operation of our section.

I would like to welcome our new newsletter editor, Kenny Kean Tan. Kenny is a new member of the Southern California Section and works for Keantan Laboratories.

The Southern California Section grew by another ten members last month. Please welcome: Lisa Bates, Kristen Simeroth, Katie Swett, Woody Pollard, Dennis Boratynec, Tara Gutierrez, Brian Olson, Dennis Jankly, Ernie Roumelis, and Matthew Hawley. Remember if you change address, please notify the section first so you will receive the newsletter uninterrupted. We will inform AEG headquarters of any address changes by our members.

Wendy Schell - Chair, Southern California Section

SAD NEWS-DR. PERRY EHLIG

By: Bob Stull

It gives me great sadness to inform you that Professor Perry Ehlig died suddenly on December 26 as a result of unknown causes. Memorial Services will be held at St. Peters by the Sea Church in Rancho Palos Verdes on January 6 at 4 pm.

A viewing will be held at Cabot and Sons Mortuary on Wednesday January 5 from 6 to 9 p.m. Cabot & Sons are at 27 Chestnut St. in Pasadena.

Professor Ehlig's contributions to the Department were monumental. He was a role model for students and faculty alike. He had served the students of California State University at Los Angeles continuously since 1956. He retired in 1992 but continued to teach on a volunteer basis.

The family has requested donations to the Perry Ehlig Scholarship in lieu of flowers.

**REPORT ON DECEMBER 29,1999 MEETING OF
THE SUNSET REVIEW COMMITTEE.OF THE
BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR GEOLOGISTS
AND GEOPHYSICISTS**

By: Robert E. Tepel

The Sunset Review Committee of the California State Board ofRegistration for Geologists and Geophysicists (BRGG) met on the morning of December 29, 1999 in the Board's Sacramento office. The meeting was held to discuss the BRGG response to the Questions posed to it by the Joint Legislative Sunset Review Committee (JLSRC). The BRGG responses are due back to the JLSRC by mid-January 2000.

Input from practicing professionals is invaluable when a board faces challenges of this nature. I lament that no representative of a professional association or of any Section or Chapter of a professional association was present. I attended out of my own interest and offer this report as an independent observer for your consideration. Clearly, what follows represents only my opinions, not those of the BRGG or any professional group. Lesser issues are skipped in the interest of brevity.

BRGG MEETING (Cont'd)

Cutting through the fluff and smoke-screens presented by the JLSRC Questions, I see the situation as follows:

While a proposal to completely deregulate the professions is always a possibility, it appears that the chief issue is not whether the state should continue to regulate the professions of geology and geophysics. The issue is whether the form of regulation should be a board as presently constituted, or a bureau within the Department of Consumer Affairs. The bureau would replace board staff with DCA staff and replace the Board with an advisory committee.

An important misconception is the assumption by JLSRC members that the only consumers of geologic services who matter as they decide the fate of the BRGG are “Mom and Pop” or “John and Jane Six-pack” consumers. If these consumers are small in number, the JLSRC will lean toward making the BRGG a bureau. (The JLSRC thinks that corporate “big business” and government agency consumers of geologic and geophysical services are so sophisticated that they do not need the protection offered by licensure).

The main, if not only, organized source of this drive to replace the BRGG with a bureau, is the Center for Public Interest Law (CPIL) at the University of San Diego. The challenges to the existence of the BRGG are not novel. The CPIL is simply restating issues and challenges that they have used before and that have appeared in decades past in the publications of organizations that deal with occupational regulation. These organizations include, for example, the Council on Licensure, Enforcement, and Regulation, the Educational Testing Service, and the National Organization for Competency Assurance.

The supposed advantages of a bureau are that it would be more efficient than a board. Ancillary to this is the (unstated) concept that the profession wants a board because it can control a board for its own interests, whereas it could not dominate a bureau.

Other issues include the potential to merge the BRGG with the Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, and a challenge to continuing specialty certification for engineering geologists and hydrogeologists.

An important functional difference between being regulated by a bureau and regulated by a board is that the board has policy-making authority and a bureau does not. The public nature of the board process (if the profession does its job of monitoring and participating) allows for input from the profession. An advisory committee to a

bureau has no policy-making authority. It can recommend, but the bureau chief (possibly a political appointee) can overrule.

The BRGG is well on the way to understanding the face issues and the hidden issues as it prepares its response to the JLSRC Questions. My sense is that the board's position will be that it should continue as a board. Its continuation as a board will probably not happen without some sophisticated and politically perceptive (and independent) support from the profession. For now, I suggest that some of the issues that the profession should be considering are:

To what degree will changing the BRGG to a bureau be disadvantageous to the public we serve? Can we develop information demonstrating that we serve thousands of “little” consumers and that there are tens of thousands more of second generation “little” consumers that we serve and protect though our corporate clients? This would support the need for a board as opposed to a bureau. Do we agree that changing the BRGG to a bureau would save money? Will dealing with a bureau be more efficient and effective for us as a regulated group than dealing with the BRGG? Will an advisory committee be able to exercise initiative and control its own agenda to pro-actively serve the public? Or will it controlled by a bureaucrat who has no direct responsibility to listen to the public or the profession, and who has other worries? Will effective regulation of the profession die a slow death from benign neglect in the hands of the bureaucracy?

NEWS ABOUT ONE OF OUR MEMBERS

Robert A. Larson was recently elected Chair of the Engineering Geology , Division of the Geological Society of America.

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Land Engineering Geologist
Water Water Quality Specialist

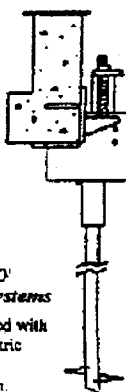
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Position Duties: Manage and/or perform all phases of major development/ construction projects, including supervise the work of staff geologists and technicians, prepare geologic/geotechnical reports and review reports prepared by staff geologist and engineers, prepare and review logs of borings and trenches, supervise field exploration programs, background reviews, ingradng geological mapping, train subordinate staff in basic geologic procedures and techniques, prepare and present proposals, scopes of work and budgets for new projects, develop and maintain an active client base.

Position Requirements: Masters degree in Geology with Engineering Geology emphasis, 5+ years experience managing public works, commercial and residential land development and construction projects; professional registrations (RG/CEG); and excellent communication skills (written/verbal). E-mail, fax or mail resume and salary history: E-MAIL: resume@gtginc.com FAX: (949) 250-1769 or MAIL: GTG, Inc. 17781 Cowan Ave., Irvine, CA 92614. No Phone calls. EOE.

FIELD/ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST

Immediate, challenging opportunity available for a geologist with mass grading experience. At least 3 years of field mass grading experience are preferred. Registration is considered a plus. Competitive pay commensurate with experience. EOE. Please fax your resume to Professional Service Industries, Inc., attention Brian Skyers, (818) 346-2069 or send via e-mail to bskyers@mediaone.net

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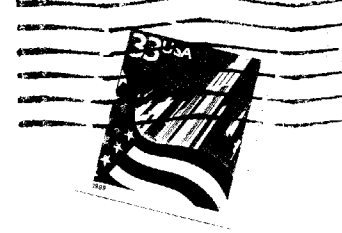
Zeiser Kling Consultants, Inc. is seeking a Staff Geologist for our Santa Ana office. Requirements include: BS degree in Geologic Sciences or related field, entry level experience will be considered, experience in the industry and hillside grading a plus. Please mail, fax or e-mail resume for consideration to: Zeiser Kling Consultants, Inc., 1221 E. Dyer Road, Suite 105, Attention: James Lancaster, Fax: (714) 755-1366, e-mail: jlancaster@zkci.com

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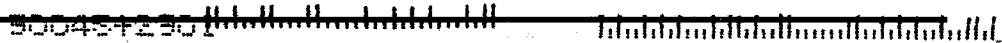


Association of Engineering Geologists
Southern California Section



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