

# ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

## Southern California Section

"Serving Professionals in Engineering, Environmental,  
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### NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2000

#### Monthly Dinner Meeting

Date: Tuesday, September 12, 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, September 8, 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

#### OFFICERS

##### CHAIR

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SPEAKER: Allen W. Hatheway - GSA/AEG Richard H. Jahns Lecturer - Year 2000

TITLE: Site Characterization

ABSTRACT: Site Characterization is a process as well as a product, that, without which, it would be impossible to carry out civil construction, waste management, environmental remediation, and natural resource recovery. Site Characterization is the process of identifying and three-dimensionally describing individual locations ("sites") for all of these essential engineered activities. Site Characterization cannot be accomplished without geologic involvement in planning, conduct, interpretation and evaluation.

Needless to say, most Site Characterization is ordered, administrated and employed by engineers, many of whom are competent only to oversee the actual process and then to make use of that product. Engineering Geologists, on the other hand are the main agents who actually produce Site Characterizations. This reflects, of course, the speaker's position that Hydrogeology is but one of the disciplines of Engineering Geology. Not all geologists are competent to produce Site Characterization, but those who practice in this area must realize that this is their reason for existence as professional scientists. It is the base of their calling as the profession to which they belong.

Allen W. Hatheway is a Past President of AEG (1985) and Past Chairman of EGD (1980), and is well known for his columns in the AEG News. He has practiced for 39 years, and worked in every State and most Canadian Provinces, Latin and South America, Singapore, South Korea, eastern Europe, Scandinavia and South Africa. He recently retired from Geological Engineering at "Missouri Mines" and is continuing his consulting practice. Allen holds degrees from UCLA (Geology) and the University of Arizona (Geological Engineering) and is a registered geologist, engineering geologist, geological and civil engineer in several States.

Chair's Note: Allen is an enthusiast speaker and widely respected member of AEG. Please come out to meet Allen and gain some insights from his extensive experience.

## CHAIR'S COLUMN

By David Seymour

Welcome to my first column as your new section chair. Before I get started, I would like to thank **Wendy Schell**, our past Chair, for doing an outstanding job the last two years. It's not an easy job running a professional organization; it takes time, energy, enthusiasm, a level head, and a good sense of humor. Wendy kept our Section looking forward and at the end still managed a smile. During her tenure our membership faced losing state licensure, changes in practice from the State Board of Geologists and Geophysicists, and elimination from the UBC Code, just to name a few. She kept us informed of these issues and in conjunction with our legislative committee and many of our active members helped in retaining our state board and licenses. Wendy is leaving her position the way she came in - pregnant. We wish her and her growing family all the best and a big **THANK YOU**. I'd also like to thank **Doug Santo**, our out-going Secretary, and **Kenny Tan**, our newsletter editor, for their hard work over the last two years as well.

I'm excited and appreciate this opportunity to act as your new Section Chair. Our incoming officers include **Lorraine Muto** as Vice Chair, **Tania Gonzalez** as Secretary, **Jacob Holt** as Treasurer, and **Desiree Dier** as our Newsletter Editor. Most of our Committee Chairs will remain the same and include **John Whitney** - Membership, **Joe Cota** - Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, **Dawn James** - Publications, **Chris Sexton** and **Charles Nestle** - Field Trips, **Kerry Cato** - Short Courses, and **Ali Tabidian** - Education. I'd like to thank each of them for volunteering and supporting their local section and profession. I look forward to working with them, and providing our members with the latest information and services regarding our profession.

My goals for the next year are to increase our local membership, increase meeting attendance, provide public outreach opportunities, and provide more services to our membership. I will elaborate in future columns on my ideas for achieving these goals. Please feel free to contact me or the appropriate officers and committee members with your thoughts and ideas. Believe me, your comments are greatly appreciated and necessary for an organization like ours to prosper. Thank you for electing me to this position. I look forward to serving you.

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Southern California Section member **Robert A. Larson** was elected Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee of the California Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists at the committee's last meeting on July 21, 2000.

Congratulations are also in order for **Wendy Schell**, our past Chair. Wendy was awarded the Douglas R. Piteau Outstanding Young Member Award. This award, established in 1985, is named in honor of Douglas R. Piteau, a deceased member of AEG who distinguished himself early in his career as an expert on landslides and rock slope stability. This award is presented to a member of AEG who is 35 or under and has excelled, either singly or in combination, in the following areas: Technical Accomplishment, Service to AEG, and Service to the Engineering Geology Profession.

Mr. **Richard Ramirez**, a long time consultant in the southern California area, was recently appointed to the State Mining and Geology Board by Governor Gray Davis. Richard's term expires on January 15, 2002. Please feel free to contact him through the Mining and Geology Board website.

Southern California Section members are encouraged to submit items to this column. Please contact David Seymour or Desiree Dier with your announcements.

## MEETINGS AND FIELD TRIPS

AEG 2000 ANNUAL MEETING - SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA SEPTEMBER 19-26, 2000

Visit the AEG web site at [www.aegweb.org](http://www.aegweb.org) or call 979-845-0142

SOUTH COAST GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD TRIP - LAS VEGAS, OCTOBER 14 & 15

Contact Bill Goodman at 949-442-2442 or [Wgoodman@nmggeotech.com](mailto:Wgoodman@nmggeotech.com)

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## QUOTABLE QUOTES

By David Seymour

"I am only too painfully aware how increasingly difficult it is to keep pace with the ever-rising tide of geological literature. The science itself has so widened, and the avenues to publication have so prodigiously multiplied, that one is almost driven in despair to become a specialist, and confine one's reading to that portion of the literature which deals with one's own more particular branch of the science. But this narrowing of our range has a markedly prejudicial effect on the character of our work." This quote is taken from Archibald Geikie's "The Founders of Geology," written in 1901.

Feeling overwhelmed? Don't worry, it's been going on for almost a 100 years now. Even in our own field, most of us end up specializing in one or two facets and dapping in the others. I've certainly felt overwhelmed by it all in my 16 years as a consulting engineering geologist, and have come to realize that there are some aspects of engineering geology that I will never experience. That's one reason why our organization meets on a regular basis, to provide our members with the opportunity to experience the various specialties within our own profession. I encourage each of you to take off your blinders and come to the meetings regardless of the topic. Who knows, you might learn something.

Geikie, A., 1901, *The Founders of Geology*: Baltimore, The Johns Hopkins University, 297 p.

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## A NOTE FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

It is a pleasure for me to continue serving the section as your new newsletter editor. Since I took over a couple of weeks ago, I have already had requests to get the newsletter out earlier. I agree and will do my best to make that happen. Aside from that, my personal goal is to work on sending the newsletter via email. I feel that this would not only cut the costs of mailing the newsletters for the section and expedite the mailing process, but I also feel that the newsletter would reach more potential members (by that I mean students). I would love to get the e-newsletter going as soon as possible and would appreciate your support. If you wish to start receiving your newsletter via email please contact me at [ddier1@home.com](mailto:ddier1@home.com) or 619-445-5336, or Tania Gonzalez at [tgonzalez@earthconsultants.com](mailto:tgonzalez@earthconsultants.com) or 714-282-6123.

I am also welcome to comments and suggestions. I look forward to taking over as your new newsletter editor and to making the newsletter interesting and informative to read. Thank you.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### GEOLOGIST

C.H.J. Incorporated, a geotechnical leader in the Inland Empire, is seeking an entry-level geologist to work under the supervision of an RG/CEG. Duties may include field exploration, compaction testing, in-grading observation, and geologic hazards evaluation. Bachelor's degree in geology is required. Reply by FAX to (909) 824-7209.

### GEOLOGIST

Ninyo & Moore's Geotechnical Div. Seeks Project Geologists (min. 5 years exp.) RG/CEG preferred. Please send resume to: Ninyo & Moore, 9272 Jeronimo Rd., Ste. 123A, Irvine, CA 92618 EOE

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## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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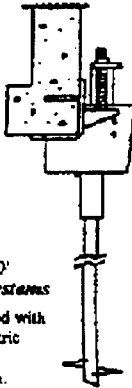
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*Association of Engineering Geologists*  
*Southern California Section*



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