

# ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

Southern California Section

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## *NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2001*

### MONTHLY DINNER MEETING

**Date:** Tuesday, January 9, 2001  
**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 5, 2001  
**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:** Susan Owen  
**TITLE:** Earthquakes and Eruptions on Kilauea Volcano

**ABSTRACT:**

Kilauea Volcano, the youngest and most active of the five subaerial volcanoes on the island of Hawaii, is also one of the best monitored volcanoes in the world. However, questions still remain about the interaction between the magmatic system and the faults underlying the volcanic edifice which have produced ~M7 earthquakes in the recent past. By using precise surface deformation measurements from the Global Positioning System (GPS), we can look at the kinematics of these processes, and gain insight into the mechanics of this active volcanic system.

**BIO:**

I grew up in New England, staying there for college and getting a B.A., in Physics from Harvard in 1992. After graduating, I headed to California to work at the USGS in Menlo Park as a research assistant for a year. I went to Stanford for graduate school, where I worked on the on-going deformation of Kilauea Volcano for my thesis. I received my Ph.D. in geophysics in 1998, and then spent a year at Berkeley as a Miller Research Fellow, where I continued to work on problems related to the earthquakes and eruptions on Kilauea. I started at USC as an assistant professor in August 1999, where I am researching active fault structures in Long Valley Caldera, California, Canyonlands National Park, Utah, the Eastern California Shear Zone, California, and also the Los Angeles basin.

#### OFFICERS

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## CHAIR'S COLUMN

**By David Seymour**

Count'em again Al. Hopefully, by the time you read this we'll know who's President. I'd volunteer to take the position, but being a native southern Californian, I'd probably be overcome by the humidity. Speaking of politics and fund raising, I'd first like to thank **Buzz Spellman** for attending the December BRGG meeting. His summary is included in the newsletter. As for fund raising, several companies and individual members have donated around \$1,500 as of early December. **Thanks to Larry Cann, William Elliott, GeoSoils Consultants, Inc., Grover-Hollingsworth & Associates, Petra Geotechnical, Inc., Stoney-Miller Consultants, Inc., and Zeiser Kling Consultants, Inc. for their donations.** Additional donations are still needed, so please consider sending in a contribution.

Our future meeting schedule is still in the works. We are tentatively scheduling joint meetings with South Coast Geological Society for February or April, and with ASCE in March. Our section is also a participating organization for the April 9-11, 2001 Cordilleran Section of GSA and Pacific Section AAPG meeting to be held in Universal City. **Peter Weigand** (CSUN) is one of the co-chairs and **Kim Bishop** (CSULA) is the technical chair for the Engineering Geology of Southern California: in Memory of **Perry Ehlig** session. Kim is also leading a fieldtrip to the Portuguese Bend Landslide. Check out the GSA web site for more info ([www.geosociety.org](http://www.geosociety.org)).

Wendy Schell (Past-Chair) and I have received a few applications for the **Martin L. Stout Scholarship** and will announce the winner at our January meeting. This scholarship is limited to AEG Student Members and will be administered by the AEG Foundation starting next year.

I hope to see more of you at the January 2001 meeting. Until then, Happy Holidays and have a Great New Year!

## E-MAIL OR SNAIL MAIL

We have received numerous requests from members for e-mail versions of the newsletter. You can request the change over at anytime, but please remember this an either/or option. Please e-mail Desiree at [ddier1@home.com](mailto:ddier1@home.com) if you would like to receive the e-mail version only.

We are still working on our web site, which will include our newsletter, links, and other information. We'll keep you posted.

## MEETINGS AND FIELDTRIPS

ASCE-Geotechnical Group Los Angeles Section-Wednesday, January 10, 2001-5:30 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Timothy Stark – Landslides: Shear Strengths and Stability Analysis

Place: Steven's Steak House

Reservations: Jasmina Matasovic (Fax: 174-840-9767) by Noon, Monday, January 8, 2001

GSA Cordilleran Section/AAPG Pacific Section-April 9-11, 2001

Where: Sheraton Universal Hotel, Universal City, California

Contact: [www.geosociety.org](http://www.geosociety.org)

## BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR GEOLOGISTS AND GEOPHYSICISTS UPDATE

**By Buzz Spellman**

From BRGG Meeting Held on December 1, 2000

Board rescinded their "Policy on the Use of the Board's Seal" on advice of DCA Counsel (Duke & Chang) who deemed the Policy an unlawful **UNDERGROUND REGULATION**. The Board is to remove the Policy from their website and paperwork. However, the 4 person Board (Cummings, Hoose, Melitian, Reid) voted to make it a **REGULATION** by following Office of Administrative Law procedures. This could take months to a year or more during which time **PUBLIC** input (YOURS) is desired. **BE ALERT FOR IT.**

Board's subcommittee evaluating **EXPERIENCE** requirement for admission to the RG exam (Hoose-EG, Melikian-Teacher, Sawyer-HG, Weber-EG), after a very comprehensive review of ASBOG tasks, concluded "the experience requirement should be maintained at 5 years after completion of a bachelor's degree in geology". President Dave Cummings notes, in a 1-page memo dated 11/30/00, that he is "not convinced that the number of years of experience is a measure (guarantee?) of qualifications". He argues that assumptions and opinions are made to arrive at 5 years experience and concludes "these opinions are very weak, are subjective, and not defensible". I disagree with Cummings, and say geology, when applied to public safety, is a profession of learned interpretations and opinions that are defensible in the court of reason, as is the 5-year experience after completion of a bachelor's degree in geology. I support the subcommittee on this issue.

All 2001 meetings of the Board and Committees will be held in Sacramento. I spoke against this because it is unfair to their constituents, both from a comradery and financial viewpoint. The Board was not sympathetic, noting it was a cost-saving item (in their \$1,000,000 budget). They had budgeted \$41,000 for travel in-state!

California Pass rate for the Fall 2000 Exam is as follows:

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| ▪ ASBOG FG, PG (multiple choice) and California Specific | 31% (128 took exam) |
| ▪ Engineering Geology                                    | 50% ( 36 took exam) |
| ▪ Hydrogeologist   | 63% ( 19 took exam) |
| ▪ California Specific only                               | 52% ( 25 took exam) |
| ▪ ASBOG FG and PG only                                   | 25% ( 8 took exam)  |

Proposed revision of the Geologist and Geophysicists Act will be carried in the 2001 legislature by Sen. Liz Figueroa. The Geology Board has not finalized revisions to the Act as of 12/01/00. When finalized, the Act will be distributed for Public comment before it is sent to the legislature some time in February. **WATCH FOR IT.**

Enforcement cases since September 26, 2000 – Enforcement Officer Mary Scruggs went to CDMG on, 12/4/00.

6 – Felony charges filed and arraignment held

5 – new cases opened  
 9 – cases closed  
 2 – cases forwarded to other Boards.

General summary of 72 open enforcement cases broken down into 7 categories:

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>NO.</b>	<b>% OF CASES</b>
Environmental-ground water and/or soil contamination	22	32
Engineering Geology	16	24
Miscellaneous	7	10
Slop stability-landslide	6	9
Ground water source/supply/evaluation	6	9
Mining or Economic geology	6	9
Geophysics	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>
	72	100%

End of Geology Board Summary by Buzz Spellman

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### PROJECT GEOLOGIST

Camarillo and Irvine, CA offices

Bing Yen & Associates, Inc. is seeking qualified candidates to fill Project Geologist positions in both our Camarillo and Irvine, CA offices. We are seeking individuals with a BA/BS in Geology (MA/MS preferred), a minimum of 6 years experience in engineering geology, strong communication and computer skills, and ability to work in a team environment. California registration as a Certified Engineering Geologist, or ability to obtain registration within 1 year, is preferred.

Please submit resumes to:

BING YEN & ASSOCIATES, INC. Geotechnical & Environmental Consultants, Established 1979

2310 E. Ponderosa Dr., Suite 1, Camarillo, CA 93010

FAX: 805-383-3090; email: [phipps@bingyen.com](mailto:phipps@bingyen.com)

17701 Mitchell North, Irvine, CA 92614-6029

FAX: 949-757-1941; email: [sykora@bingyen.com](mailto:sykora@bingyen.com)

### BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR GEOLOGISTS AND GEOPHYSICISTS

Mary Scruggs, the BRGG's current enforcement geologist, has accepted a position at CDMG, leaving a vacancy at the Board. The Board is currently accepting applications for the following:

### **ASSOCIATE ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST**

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS – A CEG license issued by the BRGG with experience in land development and groundwater contamination. Final filing date is JANUARY 2, 2001. Submit your application, Form STD 678, resume and sample of writing abilities to:

Paul Sweeny, Executive Director  
Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists  
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 300A  
Sacramento, CA 95833

Equal opportunity to all regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, disability, religious or political affiliation, age or sexual orientation.

**ASSOCIATE ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST**

**2 Positions, Permanent, Full Time, (\$4418-5370),**

**Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology, 801 K Street, MS 12-31, Sacramento, CA 95814. Apply ASAP**

Division of Mines and Geology (DMG), Seismic Hazards Mapping Program is a world renowned program in seismic zonation, and exploits the latest technologies in digital mapping. Immediate vacancies exist in our Los Angeles and Sacramento offices. Associate Engineering Geologists are being sought with experience in Quaternary geologic mapping or seismic hazard analysis. Experience in seismic hazards evaluation is desired, with emphasis on the engineering behavior of geologic materials and its effects on building foundations and structure. Experience in the geological consulting industry is an asset. Registration and engineering geologist certification is desirable, but not required. Experience, aptitude, or interest in computer-based geologic analysis is desired, and an extensive training program is provided.

**Please submit application/resume to:** Beatriz Crowl, Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology, 801 K Street, MS 12-31, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 322-9300.

**COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE-UPDATE**

The Chief Engineering Geologist position at the County of Riverside Planning Department of the Transportation and Land Management Agency has been filled.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

MEMBERSHIP - John Whitney (714) 647-0277

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS - Joe Cota (818) 785-2158

(cotageo@thevine.com)

Mark Schluter (626) 930-1223 (conversegp@aol.com)

PUBLICATIONS - Dawn James (818) 707-8320 (djames@leightongeo.com)

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SHORT COURSES - Kerry Cato (909) 506-9688

EDUCATION - Ali Tabidian (818) 677-2536

EDITOR - Desiree Dier (619) 445-5336 (ddier1@home.com)

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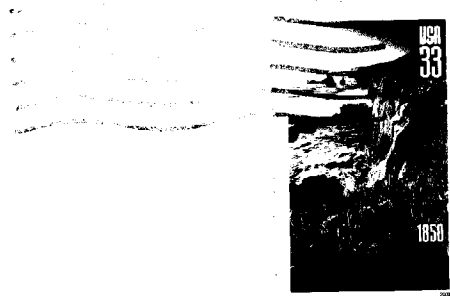
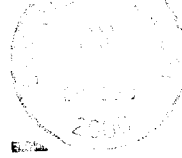
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