

# ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

Southern California Section  
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## NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2001

### MONTHLY DINNER MEETING

**Date:** Wednesday, November 14, 2001  
**Location:** Riverside Municipal Museum, 3580 Mission Inn Avenue, CA  
([www.ci.riverside.ca.us/museum](http://www.ci.riverside.ca.us/museum)) (northwest of SR-91, take University Ave/Downtown exit – Thomas Bros. P 685 H-4)  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m. - Social Hour; 7:00 p.m. – Dinner; – 8:00 p.m.  
**Presentation**  
**Reservations:** Call 909-888-2422 by 5:00 p.m., Friday, November 9, 2001  
**Cost:** \$20.00 (APPROXIMATE) per person with advanced reservations, \$25.00 at the door, and \$10.00 for students w/ valid I.D., "No-shows" will be billed \$10.00

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Tania Gonzalez  
(714) 282-6123  
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### JOINT MEETING WITH INLAND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

**SPEAKER:** Professor Donald Coduto— Cal Poly Pomona  
**TITLE:** Grading Codes and Practices in Southern California

#### ABSTRACT:

Real estate development in hillside areas of Southern California began in earnest soon after the end of World War II. Much of this development required hillside grading to create building pads for residential and commercial structures. Unfortunately, nearly all of this early work was performed with little or no input from engineering geologists or geotechnical engineers. As a result, many of the design and construction practices were inadequate, and these projects often suffered from slope failures, excessive settlement, and other problems.

In response to these problems, government agencies enacted grading codes that set minimum design and construction standards, and required owners to retain professional engineering geologists and geotechnical engineers. The first code was enacted in the City of Los Angeles in 1952. These codes have provided a framework that allowed geo-professionals and others to advance the state of practice, which has produced significant improvements in the quality and reliability of hillside grading.

Professor Coduto's presentation will trace the advancements in grading in Southern California over the past fifty years, with discussions of various technical issues and the role of grading codes. He also will discuss current problems and trends, and provide suggestions for promoting healthy and productive interactions between regulatory agencies and practicing professionals.

**BIO:**

**Professor Donald Coduto teaches geotechnical engineering at Cal Poly Pomona. Prior to joining the faculty at Cal Poly, he worked as a geotechnical engineer in both Northern and Southern California. His is a licensed geotechnical engineer, and enjoys bringing a practical flavor to his courses. He is the author of two textbooks, Geotechnical Engineering: Principles and Practices and Foundation Design: Principles and Practices, both of which are widely used in the US and abroad.**

CHAIR'S COLUMN

**By David Seymour**

September 11, 2001 still lingers heavily on my mind, as I'm sure it does with many of you. It will take months if not years for the full impact of the terrorist attack to manifest itself in our lives. Like most, however, I've tried to maintain my normal routine, which includes my duties as your Section Chair. As such, I hopped on an airplane to St. Louis to attend our annual board meeting on October 6 and 7. Several others from our section, including **Kerry Cato, Eldon Gath, Jeff and Julie Keaton, Roz Munro, and Roy Shlemon** (to name a few) also set to the skies and attended the Annual Meeting. Let us stand tall against those whose only wish is our demise.

Our last meeting was scheduled on September 11 and was cancelled due to the terrorist attack. **Rex Upp**, our current past-president, was our scheduled speaker. We did not schedule a meeting in October because of the annual meeting. Our November meeting proves to be an important one for those members consulting in Riverside County. **Professor Don Coduto** from Cal Poly Pomona will present a historical review of the grading code and current problems and trends in its application. **Representatives from the County of Riverside** will also be present to address questions and comments. This important presentation was arranged by the **Inland Geological Society**. My thanks to **Lisa Battiato** and **Frank Jordan**, both AEG members and IGS officers, and the other IGS officers for arranging the meeting.

**Annual AEG Board Meeting**

The 2001 annual board meeting was held on October 6 and 7 in St. Louis at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Representatives from nearly every section attended the board meeting as well as the new executive council members. Weeks prior to the meeting, I was party to numerous discussions regarding AEG's financial health and its cumbersome organization.

During the meeting the financial status of AEG was addressed along with the performance our current executive director, Chris Mathewson. President-elect Myles Carter and Treasurer David Simon presented plans for improving our financial status and related to that, preliminary cost analyses for relocating to the Denver area. In brief, AEG is not in a financial abyss, but does

need to redirect the financial route it has taken over the last two years. The executive director was reappointed for another one year term under strict financial guidelines proposed by the executive council and approved by the board. The relocation committee will continue its efforts in determining costs for relocating to the Denver area and present them at the mid-year board meeting to be held in April 2002.

The cumbersome organization of AEG was not addressed during the board meeting as it was overshadowed by our financial situation. Many of you may not realize it, but AEG's organization includes a board of directors that consists of the 26 section chairs. Having so many directors leads to inconsistent results not only due to the numbers but also due to the constant turnover as most chair positions are held for only one to two years. It also makes running a board meeting very expensive. This issue has been discussed off and on for several years now. I encourage those of you interested in this problem to contact me.

2001/2002 ELECTION

The results are in! Congratulations to **Lorraine Muto, Vice Chair, Tania Gonzalez, Treasurer, and Jeff Kofoed, Secretary and Newsletter Editor** for being elected as section officers. My thanks to **Jake Holt** for doing a fantastic job as Treasurer.

GEORGE A. KIERSCH

George A. Kiersch, a well respected and known AEG member and engineering geologist passed away a few weeks ago in Tucson, AZ. Allen Hatheway is currently working on a series of papers dedicated to George Kiersch.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

You should have received your 2002 membership renewal form by now. If you are unsure about your membership status, please contact **Wendy Schell**, Membership Chair, **Tania Gonzalez**, Treasurer, or me.

E-MAIL OR SNAIL MAIL

**PLEASE HELP US SAVE MONEY/TIME – SWITCH TO E-MAIL.** Presently, only 5% of the membership receive the e-version. You can request the change over

at anytime, but please remember this is an either/or option. Please e-mail Jeff Kofoed at [jkofoed@pacbell.net](mailto:jkofoed@pacbell.net) to be placed in the e-mail group.

WEBSITE

Funding for the website is now available and construction of the site is underway. Until the site is up, please check out the **SoCal Section Splash Page** at the AEG national site ([www.aegweb.org](http://www.aegweb.org)).

YEAR 2001 CONTRIBUTORS TO OUR SECTION

**Thanks to:**

**Larry Cann**  
**William Elliott**  
**Dr. Peter Weigand (CSUN)**  
**GeoSoils Consultants, Inc.**  
**Grover-Hollingsworth & Associates**  
**Petra Geotechnical, Inc.**  
**Stoney-Miller Consultants, Inc.**  
**Zeiser Kling Consultants, Inc.**  
**Additional donations are still needed, so please consider sending in a contribution.**

MEETINGS AND FIELDTRIPS

Please contact **Jeff Kofoed** for listing future meetings and fieldtrips

YEAR 2001 MEETING SCHEDULE

| <u>Date</u>                   | <u>Speaker</u>           | <u>Location</u>                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sept. 11<br>CANCELLED         | Rex Upp-AEG<br>President | Steven's<br>Steakhouse               |
| October                       | NO MEETING               | AEG National<br>Sept. 30 thru Oct. 7 |
| November<br>(Joint w/<br>IGS) | Don Coduto               | Riverside Municipal<br>Museum        |
| December                      | TBA                      |                                      |

Please contact **Lorraine Muto**, Vice Chair, if you would like to volunteer as a speaker or have a "lead".

AEG SOCIAL SECTION COMMITTEE  
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 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS - Joe Cota (818) 785-2158 ([cotageo@thevine.com](mailto:cotageo@thevine.com))  
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FIELDTRIP CHAIR NEEDED!

We are still looking for a fieldtrip chair. If you would like to volunteer, or have any fieldtrip ideas, please contact Dave Seymour.

DIBBLEE MAPS NOW ON CD

The Dibblee Geological Foundation recently produced 100 CDs of 18 of Tom's geological maps. Each CD includes 23 quadrangles from Camarillo to Mt. Wilson. CDs are available prepaid for \$110. Mail requests to:

Dibblee Geological Foundation  
 P.O. Box 2309  
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RATES FOR ADVERTISING IN AEG  
SOCAL SECTION NEWSLETTER

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Preprinted Insert \$300/yr  
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 1/4 pg \$100/yr

Non-members:

Preprinted Insert \$400/yr  
 1 pg \$300/yr  
 1/2 pg \$175/yr  
 1/4 pg \$125/yr

Monthly Ads (Members & Non-Members)

1 pg \$75/month  
 1/2 pg \$50/month  
 1/4 pg \$25/month

## AEG PARTICIPATION AT THE GSA COR-DILLERAN SECTION MEETING, MAY 2002

AEG will be participating at the GSA Cordilleran Section Meeting in Corvallis, Oregon, May 13-15, 2002. A preliminary announcement will be forthcoming in an upcoming GSA Today publication.

This notice is a feeler to determine what the level of interest might be for participating in a special session on engineering geology of landslides. If you are interested in participating in a landslide theme session at this conference, please contact Scott Burns (503-725-3389, [burnss@pdx.edu](mailto:burnss@pdx.edu)) or Charlie Hammond (503-452-1200, [charlieh@landslidetechnology.com](mailto:charlieh@landslidetechnology.com)). The proposed theme session information is as follows:

### ENGINEERING GEOLOGY CASE HISTORIES OF LANDSLIDES

GSA Engineering Geology Division; AEG:

**Landslides are intimately connected to geology, and engineering geologists are a critical part of landslide investigation, modeling, analysis and mitigation. Experienced practitioners will provide insights into critical issues of landslide evaluation, and case histories covering a variety of landslide impacts at various levels of owner requirements.**

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Expansion

Expansion Index

CONCEPT OUTLINE FOR THEME SESSION  
Presentations could include one or more of the following topics:

#### **Introductory**

- When are Slides a Risk to Man and/or Environment
- Understanding Owners Needs and Abilities
- Mapping and Modeling
- Methods of Investigation and Monitoring
- Stability Analysis and Understanding Factor of Safety
- Mitigation Techniques

#### **Settings**

- Home, development, railroad, highway, forest, utility (gas, water, power, other), marine, mining, other

#### **Level of Evaluation**

- Seat-of-the-Pants
- Limited/Specific
- Thorough
- Cost is Not an Issue

Other topics are also encouraged.

Grain Size (Full Sieve Set)  
Hydrometer Analysis  
Liquid Limit, Plastic Limit, Shrinkage Limit  
Moisture/Density (undisturbed)  
Maximum Density  
Sand Equivalent  
Specific Gravity (soil and rock),  
Swell or collapse (remolded air-dry, HUD)

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No phone calls, please. EOE

**The Dibblee Geological Foundation** has an immediate need for a contract geologic map editor. The contractor should be a skilled field geologist, have digital cartography experience, large offset printing press management skills, and artistic abilities. The principal work place will be Santa Barbara, California. The mission of the Thomas Wilson Dibblee Jr., Geological Foundation, a small non-profit organization, is to prepare, edit, publish, and make available to the public all of the geologic mapping done by Thomas Wilson Dibblee, Jr. Some 75 maps have been published with several hundred remaining.

The contract duties will include editing, field checking, digital transfer from the field sheets to a mapping program, cartographic projection transformations, overlay onto USGS topographic base, legend and cross-section construction, transfer of digital map to the printer, printing supervision, and print editing. The contractor will also participate in promotional and fund raising activities consisting of attendance at professional society meetings, field trip organization, and meeting with potential donors.

Strong working knowledge of California geology is desired and a California Drivers license is required.

Interested contractors should send letter of interest and resume to:

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 P.O Box 1074 San Clemente, CA 92674

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Full or part time CEG opening, min. 5 year varied experience, preferably in Santa Monica Mountains, field investigations, construction/grading observations, report preparation. Excellent opportunity for young or semi-retired individual, West Los Angeles office/location.

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**Marketing Coordinator:**

Geotechnical, environmental and construction material fields; experienced in compiling SOQs, Proposals, 254s, 255s; able to pursue leads from IMS sheets, Dodge Reports, etc. and bring to attention of managers; good communication skills – writing and on phone; proficient in Word, WordPerfect, Excel and Power Point.

Fax/email resume stating position of interest to:

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| Baldwin, J.E. and Sitar, N., 1991, <b><u>Loma Prieta Earthquake: engineering geologic perspectives</u></b> , AEG Special Publication No. 1, 170p  | \$10.00 |     |       |
| Bishop, K, and Tandy, 1995, <b><u>Ground Failure during the January 17, 1994 Northridge earthquake</u></b> : Association of Engineering Geologists, Southern California Section, Annual Field Trip Guidebook, November 11, 1995, 106p.  | \$20.00 |     |       |
| Shlemon, R.J., 1993, <b><u>Applications of Soil Stratigraphy to Engineering and Environmental Geology</u></b> , Short Course Volume I, 3-ring binder  | \$20.00 |     |       |
| Briggs, R.P. and Parke, C.D., 1990, <b><u>Guide to Field Trips in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia</u></b> , AEG 33 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, October 1-5  | \$15.00 |     |       |
| Blake, T. and Larson, R.A., eds. 1991, <b><u>Engineering geology along the Simi-Santa Rosa fault system and adjacent areas. Simi Valley to Camarillo, Ventura County, California</u></b> : AEG, Southern California Section, Annual Field Trip Guidebook, August 24, 1991, v. 1& 2, 383 p. 4 map sheets | \$25.00 |     |       |
| Buckley, C.L., and Larson, R.A., eds., 1990, <b><u>Geology and Engineering Geology of the Western Soledad Basin Los Angeles County, California</u></b> : Association of Engineering Geologists, Southern California Section, Annual Field Trip Guidebook, November 3, 1990, 185 p., 2 map sheets        | \$15.00 |     |       |
| Byer, J.W., <b><u>1975 Sycamore Canyon Fault, Verdugo Fault, York Boulevard Fault, Raymond Fault, Sierra Madre Fault Zone</u></b>   | \$20.00 |     |       |
| <b><u>Highway and Railroad Slope Maintenance</u></b> : AEG, 34 <sup>th</sup> annual meeting, September 29 <sup>th</sup> – October 4 <sup>th</sup> , 1991  | \$10.00 |     |       |
| Leighton, F.B. <b><u>Mitigation of geotechnical litigation in California</u></b> ; Munson Book Associates, Huntington Beach, California, 274p.  | \$20.00 |     |       |
| Sieh, K.E., and Matti, J.C., 1992, <b><u>Earthquake geology. San Andreas fault system, Palm Springs to Palmdale</u></b> : AEG, 35 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Field Trip Guidebook, October 3-4, 1992   | \$10.00 |     |       |
| Stout, M.L., ed., 1992, <b><u>Proceedings of the 35<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, Association of Engineering Geologists</u></b> , October 2-9, 1992: 740p.   | \$5.00  |     |       |
| Tepel, R, 1995, <b><u>Professional Licensure for Geologists, an Exploration of Issues</u></b> , Association of Engineering Geologists Special Publication No. 7, 1995   |         |     |       |
| Cann, L.R., Cobarrubias, Hollingsworth, B., 1992, <b><u>Engineering Geology Field Trips Orange County, Santa Monica Mountains, and Malibu</u></b> : AEG 35 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Field Trip Guidebook, October 2-9, 1992  | \$10.00 |     |       |
| <b><u>Los Angeles Metro Rail System Field Trip Guidebook</u></b> , Association of Engineering Geologists, 35 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting October 2-9, 1992 Long Beach, California  | \$10.00 |     |       |

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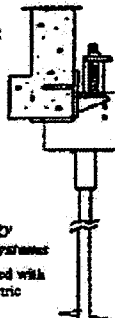
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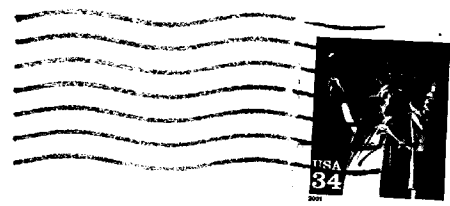
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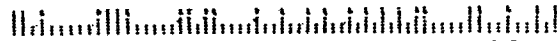
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**Association of Engineering Geologists**  
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